

Ross Dowson archives – correspondence – Year 1986

- 01_02 Letter to Denis M. re: his break with Anne D. hopefully not the movement
- 01_02B Letter to Dick (P.), Vancouver, re: success of Left Caucus convention; the personalities
- 01_03 Letter to Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies (U. of T. Press), re: RD's files of *Robitnitschi Visti* (1933-1935) in Toronto Public Library
- 01_12 Minutes of Forward Group (Toronto) (RD recording secretary), re: reports on Left Caucus ONDP; NDP Educational conference
- 01_15 Memo to Forward Group members re: special meeting to discuss upcoming forum and ONDP summer convention
- 01_17 Minutes of Forward Group (RD rec. sec'ty.) re: report on Left Caucus mailing; Jan. 27 discussion re ONDP convention slate
- 01_29 Letter to Ernie (T.), re: RD declines invitation to participate in memory of an ex-SWP comrade he hardly knew; A letter to the Director of Ukrainian Studies
- 01_31 Minutes of Forward Group (RD rec. sec'ty.) re: report on NDP Left Caucus first forum; report on opposition slate for ONDP convention; action of Law Society against Harry Kopyto
- 02_11 Minutes of Forward Group (RD rec. sec'ty.) re: SRDF – Ont. A-G's charges against Harry for statements made; picket line at hearing; report on Alternative Campaign slate at ONDP convention
- 02_25 Minutes of Forward Group (RD rec. sec'ty.) re: educational on NDPPE campaign; reports on Rebick campaign, Kopyto Defence Cttee, anti-war NDP actions
- 03_11 Minutes of Forward Group (RD rec. sec'ty.) re: RD on revolutionary explosion in the Philippines; reports on abortion campaign; on the Activist Party campaign; on NDPPE
- 03_22 *(Handwritten notes by R.D.)* on responses from a *Toronto Star* photo story "An aging revolutionary fighting to right a wrong"
- 03_25 Minutes of Forward Group (RD rec. sec'ty.) re: RD report on decline of Forward and perspective of a new journal around Left Caucus work; the anti-RCMP suit; NDP and Activist Party Campaign
- 03_28 Letter to Coordinating Cttee, Campaign for an Activist Party, Dear Dave (T.) and Judy (R.), re: RD report on St. George riding resolutions to convention, victory on

NDPPE support; resolution to ‘rally in support of free speech’ (drop charges against Kopyto)

- 03_28B Letter to D.M. Krans directing him to the only socialist bookstore in Montreal
- 04_09 Letter to M. Krans, Montreal, re: RD’s apology to a veteran socialist for the shabby treatment received from *Socialist Voice* in that city
- 04_15 Minutes of Forward Group (RD rec. sec’ty.) re: item on Gord D. educational on NDP anti-war movement and a left program for the NDP; on the ONDP Left Caucus Forum; problems in the Rebick Activist Party slate
- 04_30 Minutes of Forward Group (RD rec. sec’ty.) re: responding to a Learned Society initiative; anti-war coalition organizing for June 14; on NDP antiwar cttee work; NDPPE gaining support from OSSTF
- 05_07 Letter to Anne (D.), re: why RD did not go to Spain in 1936 and the treacherous role of the Stalinists; efforts to broaden the Rebick slate
- 05_13 Minutes of Forward Group (RD rec. sec’ty.) re: group educationals; NDP Left Caucus planning two newsletters before June convention; Camp Poundmaker summer plans
- 05_27 Minutes of Forward Group (RD rec. sec’ty.) re: SRDF-Kopyto Defence rally to support Kopyto a big success; next educational by David (T.) on strategy of Left and pre-convention rally; report by Dave on Left Caucus and strained relations with Rebick’s CAP
- 05_99 Article from May *Left Caucus Newsletter*, ‘The Left Caucus warned that the Liberal/NDP accord is fraught with danger for the future of our party;’ Bob Rae sees coalition with the Liberals as good
- 06_01 Letter ‘To Breitman Memorial meeting;’ Comrades: a tribute to a leading member of the SWP over 50 years
- 06_01B Letter to Jesse Vorst, Society for Socialist Studies, Winnipeg, re: his invitation to attend; the CPC boycott of SRDF; new books
- 06_10 Minutes of Forward Group (RD rec. sec’ty.) re: NDP anti-war cttee, CAP & Left Caucus, NDPPE
- 06_15 Letter to Arnie Mintz, London, re: thanks for a book; local activities
- 06_15B Letter to Geoff (H.), Ottawa, re: on Native art, and books on Rivera

- 06_99 Undated letter in June to *Bulletin IDOM*, New York, re: contrary to the US SI (Socialist International – Second International) which caved in on Central America; in Canada NDP leader Broadbent's support for non-intervention in Nicaragua still holds
- 07_15 Minutes of Forward Group (RD rec. sec'ty.) re: RD's position on nuclear power changed; educational series proposed; post-convention socials and discussions; Kopyto Defence cttee
- 07_29 Minutes of Forward Group (RD rec. sec'ty.) re: Camp Poundmaker educational series; brief activity reviews
- 08_08 Letter to Judy & Danny (S.), re: *Labor Focus in Eastern Europe* article on Imre Nagy speech; CLC support for Solidarnosc
- 08_16 Letter to R. Salutin, Assoc. editor, *This Magazine*, re: the death of (RD's older brother) Murray Dowson; a brief outline for an obituary
- 08_26 Minutes of Forward Group (RD rec. sec'ty.) re: Left Caucus to seek meeting with CAP
- 09_14 Letter to Anne (D.) re: receipt of mysterious gift and the purchase of a book on Rivera
- 09_20 Resolution for "Fred Callaghan, OFL" (Ontario Federation of Labor), re: demand government halt plant closures and to put them under workers' control
- 10_09 Minutes of Forward Group (RD rec. sec'ty.) re: reports on NDP, NDPPE, Anti-War Cttee, Kopyto trial and publicity
- 10_21 Minutes of Forward Group (RD rec. sec'ty.) re: RD on St. George/Ward 6 NDP; LC/CAP joint organizing November conference; Broadbent on Nicaragua; Kopyto Defence Cttee
- 11_04 Minutes of Forward Group (RD rec. sec'ty.) re: Left Caucus preparations for conference & public forum; Kopyto Defence
- 11_15 Minutes of Forward Group (RD rec. sec'ty.) re: publicity for conference on (November) 29 and slate for convention left "action program;" municipal election results extend series of defeats for NDP
- 11_29 Flyer: "A conference on strengthening the left in the Ontario NDP... (by) the Campaign for an Activist Party and the ONDP Left Caucus;" success in fusing the OLC and CAP not assured

- 12_03 Minutes of Forward Group (RD rec. sec'ty.) re: Discussion on Nov. 29 conference; Kopyto Defence report Harry disbarred by judge; appeal and publicity under way; photo of Kopyto and Dowson
- 12_17 Minutes of Forward Group (RD rec. sec'ty.) re: item re Gord D. report on Left Caucus Steering Cttee; how to meet NDP brass' Policy Review guidelines; riding reports, Kopyto Defence
- 12_21 Letter to *International Viewpoint*, re: donation and note on Kopyto's appeal against 'scandalizing the courts'

Ross Dowson, #2311
40 Homewood Ave
Toronto, M4Y2K2
Canada, 1986-1-2.

Denis Masson,
609 N. Tiola Street
Ithaca, N.Y. 14850, U.S.A.

Dear Denis;

Only hours before I received your letter did I receive a phone call from Anne breaking the news of the rupture in your relations. Startling! - taking place not only without my voice but not even with my vote. Astonishing-when you consider the matters in which I have full voice and vote. But several times, and much to my embarrassment, I have inadvertently revealed my view. Not only are young men "romantic fools". So too are lots of old men such as myself--all the more so since they are no longer, really practitioners of the fine, ancient and troublesome art of love, themselves.

I am sure since I know that you are both so fundamentally fine and serious members of our species that only much thought and anxiety has gone into this decision--when you stop to think of it a truly astonishing amount, that it is a correct decision- ~~for the~~ time. Possibly this decision will prove to be what exactly was necessary to give, whatever the subsequent decisions, the proper temper, (tremper, humeur??) the subtlety, the strenght, the incisiveness- along with the passion- that is necessary to come to serene resolutions.

I hope that this will not lead to a rupture in our relations, that perhaps you will see fit to even strengthen them. Toronto is well worth visiting and so too is Poundmaker

As for keeping in contact on the plane of that great generality-politics-I think it would be best for the next period that you take out a subscription to a U.S. paper called Socialist Action, published from 3435 Farnsworth, Room 308, San Francisco, CA 94110, \$5 a year. Ask that your subscription start with the December issue which I am confident you will find very interesting. I receive it in an envelope which may be the regular way they mail it. I am sure they will do so on your request. This paper will allow you to fit in with any of your co-workers with whom you may decide to exchange social and political thoughts. ~~which~~ I am unable to recommend a Canadian paper that deals extensively with Quebec developments which most Anglo-Canadians are so ignorant of. As you no doubt noticed the U.S. press breathed a sigh of relief over the Quebec election results which they would like to believe signed the death of Quebec nationalism.

I am glad you enjoyed the Gould book. Next opportunity would you Xerox the few pages referring to Marx's co-workers Engels and send it along? Norton have published a new book by him- I tore out the ad to send it along to you but I have misplaced it. I am sure it is on display in the campus bookstore. Yes, I have examined your doodling and found the cat in the form of a claxton or howler very interesting. I reserve my analysis for later

affectionately

Ross 

ROSS DOWSON #4211
40 Homewood Ave.
Toronto M4Y 2K2
1986-1-2-

Dick Prinsep
1435 Haro Street
Vancouver, V6G 1G2

Dear Dick;

All the best Seasons Greetings. We had a big and successful New Years social at ~~at~~ Gordon Doctorow's place which was preceded by a Christmas party of Forward--all in the traditional humanist spirit tempered with socialist determination. But it is so time consuming along with excessive strains on the digestive system that it is good to get on with the action. The next is the first of the forum series sponsored by the Left Caucus on Nicaragua but already the Ontario convention preparations are underway

The ONDP Left Caucus convention was a big success--all the more in the disappointing response to the Defence of Public Education forum. We have top speakers and an excellent location but the forum itself was poorly attended which threw a gloom over the conference which fortunately did not materialize. On the public funding I conclude that once you get into the court everyone just waits to see what THEY are going to do. This is the experience with Dowson vs the RCMP. Of course we lost the Small Claims judgement and of course we will appeal it--but we got not bad press at all. The other day a little old gray haired woman poked her head in the elevator doorway to tell me that she thought it was a very good thing we are doing. Did it get press in Vancouver--both the Star and Globe had short but quite decisive reports which I would anticipate would be picked up by the press services.

But as I was saying the Left Caucus conference came off well. Too many people wanted to get on the steering committee. A new experience for us--And not only too many from the Toronto area but good representation from Ottawa, London, St Catharines and from the youth movement. Judy Rebick has finally agreed to run. She used to be in the RMG you might recall. A very able woman and the up front woman in the Morgentaler struggle. Phil Courneyour also came to the conference. He is no longer in the RML and is a leading person in the Nicaraguan solidarity movement. I must make an opportunity to have a discussion with him. He made a comment to Marv Gandle to the effect that here he was after some years absence back into the struggle to build a left wing in the NDP. We went through a little squabble again--this time with Dale Ritch playing around with the Orenstein brothers who tried to convince us to make the Rae leaderships accord with the Liberals the key issue. While the Rae leadership can't really get anything than more respectability from the dealing with the Liberals--who being responsible for passing whatever reforms will come out of it will get all the votes that go with it--the conference held firm to an action program on the issues of the day--the shorter work week, abortion etc. And so Dale and the Orenstein's walked out--but this disgruntlement caused not a ripple

Yes, I did get the interesting photos--and apologize for not earlier recognizing it and I must take up several other letters that have been causing me embarrassment. With all this photographing and tramping on the mountains you must be keeping in good shape--as for me I haven't

been out of the apartment for two and a half days--comradely Ross

(EN)

Ross Dowson, #2311
40 Homewood Ave.,
Toronto, M4Y 2A2
86-1-3

Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies
University of Toronto Press

Dear Sirs;

\$ 51.30 cheque

Enclosed please find my cheque in your favor for the enclosed order.

995 ✓ Ukraine During WWII
1495 History & Analysis
495 ✓ Life Sentence
995 ✓ Ukraine After Stalin
1295 ✓ by Marko B. Bidzantsev
✓ C.P. Ukrainian Branch 1919-29
✓ The Ukrainian Center 1861-1950

In perusing your catalogue I noticed the listing of number 8 research report. I wonder if Frances Swyryda was acquainted with the fact that the Toronto Public Library has in its possession a microfilm of a Ukrainian language paper published in Toronto from 1933 to 1938 - Robitnitschi Visti (workers News). I turned the file over to the TPL to be microfilmed

I am enclosing a copy of a pamphlet containing English translations of several items that Leon Trotsky contributed to that publication. I contributed the short introduction to the pamphlet.

Prior to World War II I turned over to the Toronto Public Library (reference) copies of several books and pamphlets authored by Trotsky. Amongst them were several titles in the Ukrainian language published by Robitnitschi Visti. The titles would in all probability appear in various issues that are on microfilm. I wonder if any of the associates of the Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies chanced upon this material in the course of their research

I am looking forward to receipt of the enclosed order to be shipped to the above address

sincerely

Ross Dowson

Added for 3 copies of the
Ukrainian Studies Catalogue

Chairperson-- Gordon

Minutes of previous meeting read and adopted as read

Attendance- Angie, Ross, Harry, Esther, Gord, . unavailable, Dave, Kasher

Membership and contacts-- Report on second meeting with Clinton by Ross supplemented by Gord. Both thought that the discussion went well and affirmed our view that he belongs in Forward. We loaned him copy of Transitional program and document of FI-Present stage of building the FI resolution of WC. which he will read for summary discussion and decision. Discussion on two excellent contacts-Lellie Nicholls and Jeff Smith upon whom we agreed to concentrate attention on in the immediate period. Smith is studying Left Wing Communism an infantile disorder by Lenin on basis of discussion with Ross at New Years social

Discussion on the Christmas social at Diane's and the New Years affair at Gord and Rozie's- both of which were highly successful. It was felt that the New Years social brought several persons closer to us, in particular Chris Ross.

Educational- by Harry on our orientation to Canada's Labor party-with special reference to The Socialist Vanguard and the NDP document. Discussion

Left Caucus ONDP- Report on meeting of Steering committee -the first since the conference. Nine persons in attendance, very positive upbeat atmos.

here Progressing with projected forums.--the first on Nicaragua with Diane pulling it together and chairing it. Heap will speak along with Sturats, and Courneyeu on information panel. There will be a left caucus of Toronto amiling also a limited phoning. There was a discussion on preparing sample resolutions for the ONDP convention and assignments made etc etc

NDP--Educational conference dates have been set- over February 21-22, 23

-areport by Gord that New Democrats for preservation of public education Wednesday Jan 15th. The public announcement and the mobilization for the launching of Ontario convention left wing slate headed up by Judy Rebick is planned for Jaunry 27 at 56 Wellesley Street Suite 300 at 7:30

Good and Welfare- In view of the importance of the meetings on the 24th and the 27th and the building efforts that must be put into them that we schedule the next branch meeting for January 17 at Richmond St hdqtrs-agreed Motion that we ask Kasher to repara his educational on South African trade unions for that meeting. agreed

meeting adjourned

The Forward Group needs to have a meeting to work out our most effective participation in the January 24th Innaugural forum on Nicaragua and then three days later-January 27- the meeting ~~xxxx~~ launching the campaign for the Left Caucus intervention in this summer's provincial convention of the ONDP

The branch meeting came off on the 12th-educational and all-but we need another meeting right away--a well attended one so we can plan the 24th and 27th. Our regular schedule got mucked up ~~when~~ when the steering committee took over the 10th and we have to break with that schedule to prepare the 24th and 27th intervansion--

So the branch is calling for a well prepared and attended meeting at the headquarters for this coming Friday January 17th at 7:45

We are asking Kasher to present his educational previously decided upon at the 17th meeting on South Africa. This new schedule will allow us toe help assure the success of the 24 and 27th affairs

Minutes of the Forward Group (Toronto) January 17, 1986 (R.D. Rec. Secty.)

Meeting called to order--nominations for Chairperson---John D [redacted]
January 12 minutes read. Doctorow noted no reference made to his comments re [redacted] of our discussing the possibility of regularizing publication of Forward and the sponsoring of bookstore. Secretary aware that tentative comments made on above matters but there were no motions or propositions of any kind so in keeping with our practice nothing appeared in minutes. Motion that this matter be placed on the agenda of this meeting--agreed

Attendance- D [redacted], Dowson, Godina, Kopyto, M [redacted], Doctorow, B [redacted]
Dave absent because of family matters.

Membership and contacts- Report by Doctorow that Bill Clinton informed him that he would like to accept our request that he join Forward. Motion that Bill be welcomed into the group at its next meeting-unan. Left Caucus
Report by Dowson on Leslie's participation in ONDP Left Caucus mailing at Gray' affirming our agreement that she is a live Forward contact

Discussion on Jan 27 meeting re- slate for ONDP provincial convention. Noted that Diane M [redacted] announced she is running on the slate along with Gandall, T [redacted], Rebeck. Importance of Jan 27 meeting emphasized 1.- to broaden the slate particularly from outside the Toronto area and with regards to female representation and 2) to spell out the program, making it more specific than areas of concern. It was also decided to urge that along with a program committee that election committee be struck off, that a chairperson be struck off and a treasury be built so that [redacted] presentable literature. can be put out.

Report by Gord on NDP preserve Pub Edctn meeting of Jan 15th. Discussion of NDP policy conference Jan 22-3-4. at U of T -- militants representation panel and extent of riding participation in conference- Report on stage of funding of Catholic high schools-- OSSTF preparing for long struggle due to court appeals--raising funds, planning to stimulate local coalitions and membership structure

NDP riding reports-- York Center - coalescing of forces around Art and Diane York Center fight over mailing lists goes on

Educational- No information on Kasher's failure to appear at this meeting. Motion that we ask him to give it to the next meeting.

Next meeting here on Jan 31, 1986. Motion that we strike off two comrades to open discussion on the public forms of expression of Forward--the press and a bookstore etc. Dowson and E [redacted] agreed.

Motion to adjourn

Ross Dowson #2311
40 Homewood Ave
Toronto, M4Y2K2
Jan 29, 1986

Manoly R. Lupul, director
Canadian Institute of Ukrainian Studies
U of Alberta, 352 Athabasca Hall, Edmonton

Dear Sir;

I am sorry that your department did not find it useful to turn my letter over to someone who could take the time to reply to it. I did not order a copy of Research Report No. 8. I asked if the catalogue listed Hobitnychi visti. I would like to think that if it did not, on some occasion it might be possible to rectify the situation and that in your files available to researchers its existence in the Metro Toronto Reference Library would be noted - if not a copy of the microfilm obtained for your files. Xerox copies of the Trotsky pamphlets that the editors published and widely circulated in Ukrainian circles here and abroad could be some of the copies I noted I gave to the Toronto Library. And I hope you received the copy of the Trotsky essays on the Ukraine I enclosed. I would still appreciate receiving the copies of the catalogue I requested.

sincerely

Ross Dowson

Ross Dowson #2311
40 Homewood Ave
Toronto M4Y2K2 Jan 29-86

Dear Ernie Tate

Thanks for the phone call about the death of Art Sharon. I appreciated it even though as you have possibly surmised I did not send expressions of solidarity to any of the commemorative meetings.... even though I must have given you the impression that I would. As soon as I thought it over I concluded this would be a factional matter ^{and on} ~~action~~ this occasion one in which I had not the least reason to get involved in. The fact that unlike you I scarcely knew ART would only make my identifying with the Barnes current or the maltreated dissenters all the more a factional act since it would have little personal content. From the enclosed notes appearing in The Bulletin in Defense of Marxism my fears turned out to be correct--- ~~attention~~ ^{attendance} by invitation only, that is totally unacceptable to me. So like wise agree with GB - that ~~the~~ ^{their} actions of the Barnes leadership both organizationally and politically ~~don't~~ ^{do} allow those calling themselves Trotskyists to remain ~~silent~~ ^{neutral}.

comradely

Ross Dowson

Meeting called to order by secretary

Harry K elected to chair

minutes of previous meeting read. Bacher stated that the minutes are in error in reporting that he agreed to stand for the future educational with Ross as reported. Minutes adopted as corrected.

Membership and contacts- Gord welcomed as new members both Bill C and Jeff unanimous vote. Bill reported on discussion with British Militant Group member who contacted him following his attendance at the Rebick campaign meeting on Monday. accepted as information

Diane question as to whether the branch was going to follow up the ~~xxxx~~ matter she had raised at a previous meeting about a discussion on the rights and responsibilities of membership in the Forward Group. The chair entertained a motion that it be the subject of next meetings educational. unanimous vote. Kopyto accepted assignment to give it.

Attendance-Dave, Bob, Angie, Kopyto, Gord, Ross, Diane, John B, Bill, Jeff absent without known reason John D, Esther unable ~~to~~ attend due to family illness

NDP- Left Caucus- Ross lead off with a report on the first of the series of public forums that the Caucus organized on January 24- on Nicaragua featuring the Stuarts, Dan Heap, Barbara Stuart of CAN etc. Well attended --65 to 70 persons, good collection over \$100. He felt that the atmosphere was not what it could have been hoped for- Left caucus attendance wasn't what could be expected. While the date was set by the Left Caucus Steering committee meeting some comrades felt that it was too rushed for proper preparation. Effective leaflet made the LC mailing and was well posted on Bloo St and campus Preparations underway for next forum--topic not yet selected.

(prep of)

Report on Jan 27 Monday meeting re^(prep of) opposition slate for the ONDP convention. Storm seriously cut back attendance but good atmosphere, developing interest. Dave lead off with report of preliminary meeting arranged by Rebick ~~xxx~~ to which she invited Marv Courneyeur, Dave, Kasher along with Barry Weisleder to discuss document-For an action party etc. David sees potential problems with Weisleder participation. Rebick announced a campaign committee meeting for Thursday February 6th at Bof E building on College. Suggestions were made from the floor for consideration of inclusion and/or expansion of the document

Report lead off by Gord on ~~preparations~~ of the NDPers for the Preservation of public education to participate in three day conference being organized by Rae leadership.

Educational on Problems of leadership and program of the developing South African Revolution by Kasher -discussion

- report by Kopyto on Law Society investigation of certain statements he made to the press and successful rallying of support from radical lawyers to prepare defence--also suite launched by two policemen on grounds of other statements he is alleged to have made

- Next meeting to be held on February 11 - Tuesday at Richmond Street hqtr which will have as a priority full discussion on regularizing branch meet

- meeting adjourned after 11

- Ross reported that International Viewpoint erroneously attributed a financial donation from a friend as coming from the Forward Group.

Attendance-- all 12 present

Election of chairperson *Darling*

Minutes of previous meeting-- January 31, 1986 *ad* appted as read

~~SRDF~~ update on charge of criminal contempt of court laid by the Ont Attorne general against Harry Kopyto for joint statement that he and Dowson made to a G & M reporter on the dismissal of the SRDF suite against RCMP officers Chisholm and Jaworski. Kopyto appearing in court on Feb 17. A press conference announcing the public launching of a Defence Committee will be held at City Hall immediately after. Comrades and friends who are able to do so are urged to attend. A modest information picket line is planned to take place in front of the court house on University avenue. A meeting of key persons active in the Law Union Circle to take place on the 13th at Copeland's office, which it is anticipated will provide a nucleus of the Defence Committee. Roach is enthusiastically behind the project and agrees with the two central demands Drop the Charges Against Kopyto and Defend Freedom of expression. Plans are afoot to make this a key civil rights case that will reach out into the NDP, the trade unions and further involving all our forces whatever their area of work and beyond. Motion to adopt line of Kopyto report and supplementary comments--unanimous

Educational- by Harry on Rights and obligations of membership in the Forward Group

Report on Alternative Campaign for the coming Ont NDP convention--by David Campaign is still moving forward favorably. Ottawa area meeting hearing Rebick on Feb 17th. Many problems still be resolved--basically the social movements appeal and the politics of the appeal of which the Left Caucus is the key component. While Rebick is being projected as the major element in the appeal there is a tendency to play down the other elements necessary to present any kind of alternative policy and leadership -- particularly those around the Left Caucus and Forward Group- while Weisleder is up forward in an incomprehensible way. While there are developing frictions everyone is being careful to not jeopardize the promising possibilities. A satisfactory compromise has been arrived at with regards to the revised Towards an Activist Party which will be mailed out this coming week along with the notice of the province-wide meeting on March 2, 3 to 4 p.m. This meeting requires our all-out support. Millard and Buchanan to be approached to join alternative campaign and as it broadens out-Gord and Esther

Left Caucus forum still moving forward - to be on Equal pay for work of Equal value which is increasingly important as the Liberals back off under BB pressure. *Edctn*

~~The~~ Report on preparations of NDPers for the Preservation of Publication participation on provincial council Feb 22-23 conference, ~~discussion~~
It is not clear at this time as to the extent of participation possible but a Saturday nite social affair will open things up.
Motion to adjourn passed unam

Minutes February 25, 1986 Meeting of Toronto Forward Group (R.D. in Rec. Secty.)

Minutes of February 11th meeting read and adopted as read

Attendance- ~~Amma~~ ~~Max~~ ~~Maughan~~ ~~x~~ Absent: D Codina, M Kashar
Secretary reported that with next meeting we will have an attendance book set up

Membership and contacts- It was agreed that we will build up a list of contacts so that we will be alerted to consciously bringing them closer to joining Forward. Contacts discussed at this meeting-- , Steve S (Hamilton)

Proposal that we hold a class of three or four sessions on a topic of concern. It was agreed that we postpone taking any action in this direction because of pressure of other important matters at this time. Harry suggested that he and Angie would be quite pleased to arrange informal discussions at their home of a Saturday night- although comrades should phone in advance either through the office -361-1404 or home 782-8781

Educational by Gord on the current stage of the struggle to preserve public education and our role- Very effective intervention at the debate arranged by the Ontario leadership. The fact that the leadership did not take it very serious, rather using it to blow off steam enhanced our intervention and contributions. Spirits are high - support widening despite the progress established by the Catholic hierarchy. ~~Will~~ will make a good account of itself at the Ontario summer convention

Robick campaign moving forward to Sunday March 2 rally. It appears to be having some impact. The coming meeting will structure a co-ordinating committee, discuss resolutions that will strengthen the programmatic base of the campaign which is severely restricted due to the fact that the number campaigning has not been widened. It was agreed that at this meeting we would attempt to nominate at least M T and G.

Kopyto Defence Committee. A meeting to get the project underway was held earlier this evening- good response- Key literature for large mailings being prepared. A fund-raising Wine and Cheese social is being organized April 5th with June Callwood, Gintees and Lynn MacDonald, Bromley Armstrong among the inviters. A lawyers committee whose backbone will be the Law Union is already working on the defence and is preparing dramatic incident for publicity when the case comes before the court on March 17

Anti-war- Report that NDF caucus not projecting the party's principled opposition to NORAD but attempting to insert the withdrawn clause which they think will make it difficult to use NORAD agreement to entrap Canada into Star Wars. Bacher got a good reception on his speech at U of T analyzing the anti-war movement in USSR and Eastern Europe.

Next meeting Wednesday March 12

Minutes of March 11, 1986 meeting of Toronto Forward Group (R.D. sec. Secty.)

Meeting called to order ~~John~~ - elected to the chair- Minutes read & adopted
Attendance- Bissoon, Dowson, Doctorow, Clinton, John D ~~Tomczac~~, Tomczac
Membership and contacts- ongoing report on Leslie Nichols--Ross reported
short conversation with Nels Fettes in International Womens Day demo.--he
told Ross that he had come across a file of Forwards in the McMaster U
library--very favourable impressed by it and wanted to know what had happened
to it

Gord referred the idea of holding a social, to bring our contacts closer, to
the next meeting - passed

Educational- composed of a report and discussion of two items of current im-
portance. Dowson lead off discussion on the revolutionary explosion in the
Philippines that saw the masses take to the streets, fearlessly confront the
Marcos army and the collapse of the Marco regime with Marcos fleeing the
country. The existence of the New Peoples Army in control of important sec-
tions of the country and the Aquino forces attempting to fill the void left
by the collapse of the Marco regime opens the road for the struggle in the
spirit of the permanent revolution to transcend the revolutionary government
headed by Aquino with the demands of the agrarian revolution coming to fore.
The other item was the Freedom of choice struggle posed in the course of
the discussion at the Activist Party meeting at B of EdB uilding . With the
Stalemate of CARAL's struggle with the government to repeal the abortion laws
Morgentaler and key supporters have tried to open space around an effort
to open and legitimize free standing abortion clinics through OCAC. Wesleder
s paper carried an article expressing distaste that the Manitoba NDP governmen
has coopted that struggle there by supplying the hospital abortion
clinics with considerable funds. General consensus that we support such comm
unity struggles in which Art and Sandy are participating for community control
of the publicly funded hospitals and the establishment of abortion clinics.
with universal access. While we support the OCAC struggle it is debatable
that they can be sustained on a longterm basis

Report on Activist Party campaign behind Rebick. David thought that the
March 2 meeting was a success for the Left Caucus-- the resolution on the
Catholic high school funding was adopted, while the slate was not filled out
due to lack of time, the principal was clearly agreed upon, Wesleder defeat
ed in election for steering committee, as was Gord but Left Caucus well
represented. Activist party campaign appears to be taking off.

NDP reports--NDP Defence of Public Education meeting has adopted a good
resolution for the Ontario convention--it is being mailed to all the ridings.

Report on NDP anti-war committee- Jewett muffled party position against
NATO and NORAD--the committee has prepared a communique affirming the party's
clear opposition. The NATO and NORAD pamphlets are in the process of being
written. It was recommended that Bill get deeper involved in anti-war comm
ittee- and in the preparing of the pamphlet- Report adopted

Fuller report on the Defend Kopyto campaign delayed for next branch meeting.

Next branch meeting March 25--Ross D educational

meeting adjourned

March 22/86

phone calls provoked by Star article on
Dowry

- ✓ a Toronto man named Fife phoned to say he agreed with everything said in the article - is sending off a letter to me + will drop around to see me
- ✓ ~~man~~ name Mian phoned ~~a Pakistani~~ - recently been on the research staff of the NS NDP - graduate of Dalhousie - sees a complex conspiracy at work RCP + Masons (capitalists?)
- ✓ Fred Kahane of Sarma phoned in - he used to come to book store when at Yonge + Bloor - Oil workers Union staff - lives at 1840 London Rd in Sarma N7T7H2 - would like Harry to consider taking a case involving RCP harassment - will write Harry - wants ~~to~~ to see about HK knows that hockey is no good + Copeland - a Supt McKingley RCP - Port Hasting police in Sinner
- ✓ Taylor - older man retired, knew me when we were occupying ~~space~~ off old Star Bldg on King - had a business in one of the rooms - knew Bob Ray's father - been following the Dawson saga - thought the Star article very friendly - now winters near Beluga - phoned to express solidarity + friendship - lives on several acres outside Guelph?
- ✓ ~~on a~~ - letter from Montreal - Kuran
- ✓ ~~Tues~~ by Scott Fife ^{arrived} came over 60's friend of one of Buch family - invited her to visit me or come to Lakeview Hall - like the article

By Patricia Orwen
Toronto Star

The slight, balding pensioner sits on the edge of one of two mismatched armchairs in the cluttered living room of his cramped studio apartment, surrounded by cardboard boxes overflowing with papers, an ancient Underwood typewriter, a dying poinsettia and the complete works of Leon Trotsky.

Ross Dowson, 69, is still plotting for the revolution. In his obsessive dream of the Canada of the future, a hard-line socialist government dedicates itself to the liberation of the downtrodden masses from under the boot of capitalism.

"I'm talking about fundamental change," he says, his words tumbling out and hands gesticulating. "Trotsky defended the right of the working class to overthrow repressive regimes . . . just as the capitalists once overthrew the feudal regime."

The words may strike the listener as the idle rantings of a soap box orator, but the tone does not. Dowson is deadly serious. So much so that he has been engaged for the past decade in an unrelenting — and so far unsuccessful — legal campaign to punish those he claims once stood in the way of his cause, namely the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP).

Dowson's clash with the Mounties began in 1972 when they infiltrated his now-defunct League for Socialist Action (LSA).

Later inquiries revealed that the RCMP had circulated forged letters among members of the organization questioning the sanity of the group's leader, John Riddell.

According to Dowson, the RCMP achiev-

An aging revolutionary fighting to right a wrong

ed its aim: "Temporarily blocking" the activities of the LSA and diverting it from its goals.

Five years later, then Attorney-General Roy McMurtry admitted in the Legislature that the RCMP had investigated the radical Waffle arm of the NDP, which included members of the LSA.

McMurtry intimated that the LSA was "subversive," a word that outraged Dowson. He seized on it as his chance to "defend myself and all the victims of the RCMP."

His lawyer, Harry Kopyto, a long-time friend who hasn't charged Dowson for his legal services, launched a slander suit for \$500,000 in Federal Court against the RCMP.

Two years later, a judge dismissed a major portion of Dowson's suit, ruling that the RCMP's statements were made as an extension of parliamentary proceedings and were therefore privileged, making the RCMP immune to charges.

When, in early 1980, it was clearly established that the RCMP were responsible for the forged letters, Kopyto attempted to lay criminal charges.

McMurtry, however, stayed proceedings on the grounds that the prosecution would not be in the public interest. McMurtry's action was overturned by the Supreme Court of Canada in October 1983. But after a series of delays and appeals, this case too was blocked when it was ruled that there was insufficient evidence to lay charges. In the meantime, the United Nations Human Rights Committee had turned down Dowson's case on the grounds that it did not want to second guess a court decision.

As a last resort, Kopyto in 1985 took Dowson's case to small claims court where he sued for \$3,000, the sum of Dowson's lost wages when he had to leave the LSA.

This case ended in failure last December when a judge decided that even if the RCMP "acted wrongfully" they did so in the "genuine belief they had statutory authority to do what they did."

Lawyer Kopyto, clearly enraged at the outcome, now faces a contempt of court charge for remarks he made subsequently.

The Law Union of Ontario, a left-wing group of 300 lawyers, legal workers and students, has established a Kopyto defence fund and committee to help fight for freedom of expression. And the Canadian Civil Liberties Association has asked Attorney General Ian Scott to drop the charges against Kopyto.

Amid all this legal wrangling, Dowson has succeeded in rallying to his cause some unlikely allies — those who may by no means See BATTLING/page M12

Battling for the principle of freedom of spe

Continued from page M1

share his political views, but who nevertheless believe his battle represents an important principle of freedom of speech.

They share Dowson's concern that, despite massive RCMP wrongdoings uncovered in the late 1970s and early 1980s by royal commissions, Dowson's suit was one of only two brought outside of Quebec aimed at punishing the Mounties for their "dirty tricks."

Instead of being prosecuted, says Toronto criminal lawyer Clayton Ruby, "those most prominently responsible have, in many cases, been promoted to higher positions after being publicly identified with acts shameful to the administration of justice. This is not only wrong but it is one that could come back to haunt our society."

Though one "may not necessarily agree with the political views of Mr. Dowson . . . the real test of a democracy is its ability to tolerate and respect individuals whose views may not coincide with those of the majority . . ."

This, in part, is the statement of purpose of the Socialist Rights Defence Fund, which was set up to raise money and rally public opinion in Dowson's favor.

Internationally known authors Jessica Mitford, Linus Pauling and Dr. Benjamin Spock, Pierre Berton, Margaret Atwood, some 50 academics and the New Democratic Party are among hundreds who signed the fund's statement.

"We can't say that it happened to Dowson but it won't happen to us," said John Harney, associate president of the NDP of Canada. "Times were different in the late '60s and early '70s. There was a greater concern about the left-wing movement, but the fact remains that we don't have certain civil libertarian measures in place . . . we too could become the victims of an unwarranted investigation."

"What do you say in other such cases where people choose to behave illegally on the basis?" asked Alan Borovoy, lawyer for the Canadian Civil Liberties Association. "How can you enforce the laws so selectively?"

The uncovering of the massive RCMP wrongdoing led to the establishment of a civilian security agency, the Canadian Security Intelligence Service, separate from the RCMP. Although Borovoy sees this change as an improvement, he believes there is still too much room for abuse of individual rights.

Ross Dowson will never be convinced of that.

Dowson himself, a Quixotic figure, sees his own setback as only a temporary one on the inevitable road to the socialist world of his dreams. "Look at what's happened in the Philippines . . . the whole world is beginning to adopt socialism."

In 1961 Dowson, along with his elder brother, Murray, founded the LSA. Sons of a printer, the two were brought up in the High Park area of Toronto by a father who drilled into them his ideas and theories about the repression of the working class.

They started the LSA, says Dowson, in order to build a left wing in the NDP, the political party which they believed would peacefully and legally turn Canada into a

socialist country. "The aim of the socialists," Dowson said, "is to increase the unity of the (working) class, to sharpen its consciousness and raise its combativity so that it can implement its will."

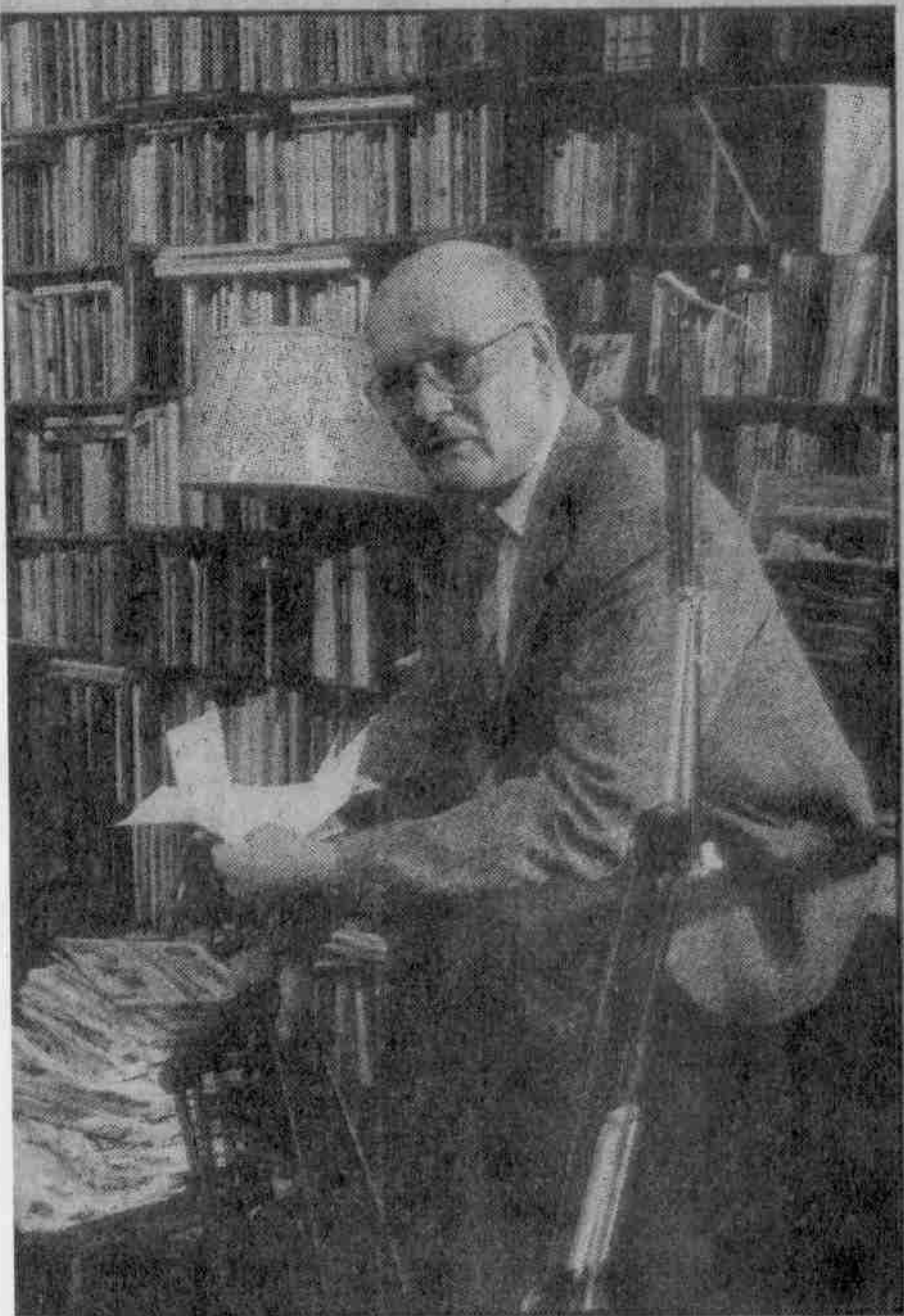
At its peak, the LSA had a national body with offices in Hamilton, Montreal and Vancouver. The membership, which numbered between 200 and 300, ran bookstores, held meetings and fought elections.

"Everything was open and legal," Dowson said. "We encouraged members to support the NDP and to become involved in politics."

Beginning in 1947, Dowson ran for mayor of Toronto nine times, actually polling 23,777 votes in 1949. Mayor Hiram McCallum won that year with 97,715. Ironically, says the NDP's Harney, the LSA "never should have been investigated in the first place. They were people with a sort of naive romantic belief that somehow the working class, if only it would see the truth, would somehow take over the reigns of power. But there wasn't any chance of that happening."



Clayton Ruby: "Those most prominently responsible have, in many cases, been promoted



RON BULL/TORONTO STAR

Miss Dowson: The RCMP circulated forged letters among members of his League for Socialist Action.

Meeting called to order -- ~~Angie~~ in the chair
attendance- Harry, Angie, John D. Ross D, Bill C, Gord, David, Diane
Minutes of March 11 read and adopted as read
Membership and contacts- Gord reported on discussion he had with Betty-Jane
Anthony and proposed that she be placed on live contact list-agreed. Motion
that we hold a social on April 12-agreed. Motion that Sabina be approached
about holding in in her home--agreed. Everyone to bring something.
Educational by Ross on the decline of Forward with the long abbinge of the
radicalization, the exhaustion of its sub base and the weakening of
our forces. Even without any fulltime staff which is essential for a serious
socialist press we published 51 issues. In the latter period the Dowson suit
and the SRDF campaign carried the paper politically. The NDP failed to pro-
vide us with a milieu but on contrary germinated a contestant Nonprogrammatic
da-based around some CLC labor college scholastic petty bourgeois types. Now after
several years of the Left Caucus the challenge of a socialist press is rising.
before us again. Not another version of Forward which came out of the degen-
eration of the LSA but a new paper that comes out of the experience of the
Left Caucus and the new forces in the trade unions. We should be undertaking a
patient and careful preparation of this paper. We should not be setting a dead
line but should be thinking about it, preparing ourselves, we should be readin-
g and studying International Viewpoint - the Left Caucus forums development
could play a key role is preparing the milieu for this future paper which
could take some leads from the early Healyite paper which forged connections
with the Bevanite forces.
Anti-RCMP suite--- Ross reported on the ~~XXXXXX~~ article that appeared in the
March 22 issue of the Saturday Magazine Star. In the next couple of days 6-7
onaphoned in to express support. The author expressed disappointment with Star
editing. Harry reported on actions being taken against him by the Law
Society. The Harry Kopyto Defence Committee through mailings of brochure and
phone calls is building up for a very successful social affair designed to
raise funds. It will be held on Saturday April 5 at Charles Roach's home.
Supporters are planning to distribute Kopyto brochure to the Queen's Park
protest against extra billing, on Friday 4th
NDP-- report provincial council meeting-- and opposition' to top brass' ex-
pulsion of long time and leading member Lee for his running in the
provincial elections against Catholic HS funding against official NDP
candidate. Report of NDPers for Preservation of Public Education
Report on Activist Party Campaign. and its inevitable tendency to build up
credibility of Left Caucus
Left Caucus public forum - preparation well along- cant afford a mailing but
poster being done along Bloor and elsewhere and notice is going into
the Labor Council mailing
Next meeting to be held on April 15--educational on NDP anti-war policy
to be given by Gord--motion to invite Zane to the educational--passed.
adjourned

Ross Dowson, #2311
40 Homewood Ave,
Toronto, M4Y 2K2
March 28, 1986

Coordinating Cttee
Campaign for an Activist Party
35 Lewis St., Toronto M4Y 2H2

Dear Dave and Judy;

On March 26 the St George NDP had its first meeting in many many months. Unlike previous pre convention meetings there was no business other than resolutions for the coming convention which took up the whole evening. Heretofore resolutions were squeezed into the dying moments... this time they were allowed to run full time.

I presented all the resolutions worked out by the March 2 meeting along with one on the Kopyto case. There were two or three other resolutions submitted by others. Not all of them hit the floor but all those that did were passed. Unfortunately although I passed out Xerox copies at the opening of the meeting and urged others to present any they were agreeable to -- I ended up presenting all of them. Having to think rapidly of how to present them and take on the opposition I am unable to give you as good a picture of the debate as I would like. I had anticipated that Leo Zlaslovsky would be there in support but it was announced in passing that he had just resigned from the executive....no reason given, for his resignation or whyfor. This might be checked out - in the notice of meeting he signified his opposition to separate school financing.

The attendance was unusual. There were only five or so of the machine supporters. The usual hangerson who have been employed in the past to take on anything I presented from any and every angle just weren't there. Because of previous experiences I was seriously considering not even bothering to show. The only substantial debate was on separate school funding. But we won it by 15 votes to nine. I found the ~~Resolution~~ Resolution to Preserve Public Education to be really excellent. So much so that the machine seemed to be truly unable to get a handle on it.

Every meeting on St George turns up persons who I have never seen before and several of these people made very substantial contributions on this resolution. We had the first discussion on this matter that has taken place in Rosedale-St George and we won it hands down. Peter Waite expressed great exasperation about the continuing pressure on this matter at the provincial council meetings. As it became obvious that they were losing the argument he, Goyeau and others resorted to innuendo and slander so that several of us protested. It would appear that the position of Ray and Co is difficult if not precarious and this debate could be a critical one at the convention which must be well prepared. Many of the opposition stood to be delegates but there are sufficient credentials available to the leadership to fill it out and the leadership is wiley to be sure.

I circulated the Activist Party leaflet, the Left Caucus forum leaflet along with the Kopyto leaflet. Unfortunately when the meeting adjourned everyone fled so I am unable to report on their impact.

Your letter mentions a sheet describing the campaign structure but nothing was enclosed other than the resolutions. Inadvertently my name is not down as an endorser but you are more than welcome to use my name

socialist greetings

Ross Dowson

Kopyto

Whereas the ONDP has always been in the forefront of defending the fundamental democratic right of freedom of speech ;
and whereas freedom of speech has been traditionally recognized as a key instrument for checking the political abuse of arbitrary power:

and whereas the decision of the Ontario government to prosecute Harry Kopyto for criminal contempt for publicly alleging unfairness and bias in the judicial ~~xxxxxxx~~ treatment of police violates such a fundamental democratic right;

and whereas the labour movement is rife with ~~ex~~perience regarding the preferential treatment given police in too many instances in the courts:

Therefor be it resolves that-

1- The Ondp call upon the Attorney-General of Ontario to drop the charges against M. Kopyto

2- that the ONDP affirms its essential agreement with the criticism made by Mr Kopyto regarding the preferential treatment given police by the courts

(Transcribed from a heavily-edited article by R.D.)

Kopyto---1

To the shock and protests of widening layers of the public and the editors of Toronto's two major dailies, Ontario Supreme Court judge Robert Montgomery has convicted human rights lawyer Harry Kopyto of the criminal offence of scandalizing the court. Kopyto will be sentenced at District Court, 361 University Ave. (east side, University Ave. N. of Queen) at 10 am on Thursday November 6. Kopyto's "crime" was to criticize the judicial system for covering up thousands of RCMP crimes.

Not a single RCMP officer or government official who supported the RCMP's lengthy campaign of "dirty tricks" against the trade union movement, the NDP and various groups of dissenting but completely legitimate opinion, has been punished. But Kopyto who represented socialist activist Ross Dowson in over eight years of struggle on every level of the justice system has been declared a criminal and faces up to 5 years in prison.

Judge Montgomery refused to withdraw from the case for appearing biased as a result of blocking Dowson from laying charges against two confessed RCMP "criminals" at an earlier stage. Judge Montgomery restricted Kopyto's defence by ruling that the truth of statements would not be considered as a defence.

Defend freedom of speech; defend our civil rights by defending one of their most courageous partisans. Express your solidarity and active support in any and every way you can. Volunteer your time and send funds to the committee that has been set up in Harry Kopyto's committee defence (HQ) at 721 Danforth Avenue near Pape -- 461-3605 or 361-1404.

Meet Kopyto and his lawyers Charles Roach and Angie Codina at a party being held on Wednesday evening, November 5, at United Steelworkers Hall, 25 Cecil Street (One block south of College, east off Spadina) at 8 PM.

Join the protest at the court with others at the corner of the Armouries just one block north of the east end of the Osgoode Hall subway station exit, to support Harry Kopyto at the District Court House, 361 University Ave. at 9 AM. Go to the sessions so that you can monitor them and report back to friends and associates.

Attend the Friday November 14, 8 PM meeting organized by the New Democratic Party Left Caucus at Bloor Collegiate, 1141 Bloor Street West, steps away from the Dufferin Street Subway. Kopyto, Roach, Codina and others will participate.

Pardon, Amnesty for Kopyto!

(Draft flyer with notes and revisions:)

RALLY IN SUPPORT OF FREE SPEECH

DEMAND THE CHARGES AGAINST HARRY KOPYTO BE DROPPED

For uttering the words – the courts “are warped in favour of protecting the police” – Toronto human rights lawyer Harry Kopyto has been charged by the attorney-general of Ontario with criminal contempt of court. His trial has been set for September 22.

Kopyto spoke these words following news that after an 8 year long suit that he has been arguing on behalf of a client against RCMP harassment of the labor and socialist movement in the seventies had been dismissed on the grounds that the police were only doing what Ottawa had ordered them to do.

The legal profession and widely diverse supporters of human rights are aghast that lawyers are being threatened for criticising the present justice system.

Join them on Saturday, May 17, 7:30 pm
Board of Education Auditorium, 155 College St. (West of University Avenue)

Hear –

- * Svend Robinson, M.P. (Burnaby), federal NDP justice critic
- * Michael Mandel, professor of criminal law, Osgoode Hall Law School
- * Rabbi Reuben Slonim, author and lecturer
- * Mike Lyons or a representative of the Metro Labour Council
- * and a galaxy of representatives of Community movements and organizations

Among the entertainers will be the incomparable singer and raconteur Arlene Mantle, and Robert Priest, poet.

Chairperson – Diane Martin, criminal lawyer

Co-sponsored by the Harry Kopyto Defence Committee (416-361-5885) and the Law Union of Ontario

(top handwritten notes: A representative of the Metro Toronto Labor Council to be announced...? Svend Federal NDP Justice Critic... Anna – press run 3M)

Ross Dowson #2311
40 Homewood Avenue
Toronto M4Y 2K2
March 28, 1986

M. Kran
1240 Dufort St., Apt 306
Montreal, H3H 2B6

Dear friend

Sorry to be so long in taking up your welcome letter. I recognized your writing immediately. I am very busy right now in the defence campaign that we are attempting to build up behind my lawyer Harry Kopytwo--I take it you are acquainted with the suit that he has been waging in protest against the RCMP's assault on the Trotskyist movement along with the entire Left.

Yes, there is a group in your city from whom I feel confident you could borrow the writings of and about Trotsky you mention in your note..

The Revolutionary Workers League
4274 Papineau, Suite 302, phone - 524 7992

I do not recognize the title that you ascribe to Joe Hansen however the other two books --the latter with some valuable supplementary material to the main work as you probably read it has been published by Pathfinder

I am confident that someone at the Papineau address would be prepared to loan you a copy. The most important book on Trotsky is a three volume study by Isaac Deutscher published by Oxford Press and available in any library worthy of the name. Another volume well worth while is Trotsky, a study of the dynamic of his thought by Ernest Mandel and published in a paper back by New Left Books of England. I would think that would be in any major library

Good to hear from you

with Trotskyist greetings



Ross Dowson

I thought your name was

April 9, 1936
R. Dowson, #2311
40 Homewood Ave.,
Toronto, M4Y2K2

M. Krans
1240 Dufort Street, Apt 306
Montreal, H2H 2B6

Dear Comrade Krans;

Under separate cover--in a rather bulky parcel- I have sent off to your above address the copy of Where is Britian Going that you said you would like to borrow. I would appreciate your returning it as soon as you have read it

I am sending along with this volume several years of the collected incidental writings by Trotsky. You are welcome to keep them or pass them along to anyone you might think interested. These volumes have come out in a regular size book format and since they were published have had added to them a few other items of interest that turned up. They are truly fascinating --showing Trotsky's intervention in current events as they developed.

I am truly sorry that you were so shabily treated by the persons at the Montreal office of Socialist Voice. I had no idea that they would so respond - although now thinking it over I am not totally suprised. I have had little to do with them for over a decade now--observing their deterioration from afar.

When you write you are known by Murray I take it that you are referring to my brother--who now lives in Ottawa, and by Joliffe--I take it to be Naomi Joliffe who I understand is now living in Montreal. Should I have ocassion to go to Montreal in the near future I will certainly look you up. But I have not been travelling much of late and unfortunately while I can read French I am unable to hear it and speak it.

to your good health

Ross Dowson

Minutes of Toronto Forward Group April 15, 1986 (R.D. Rev. Sects)

Chair person--Kopyto

Motion on procedure proposed by chair--that the meeting attempt to come to a close by 10-15 and that reports be limited to 5 minutes and discussion contributions be limited to three minutes -agreed

Attendance-- Bacher unable to come to town--Angie will be late- as will be David T- present--Ross, Harry, Esther, Bill C. Gord, John D, Kasher, Diane m Membership and contacts- Sabina K wishes to re-join the branch . Motion by Dowson that we defer handling this question until a future meeting-agreed

Proposal that we add Leslie ^{Ev} to our close contact list- Appears to be extremely close to us-active both in her union and the NDP . Agreed

Educational--Gord --on the issues confronting us in deepening our intervention in the anti-war movement and putting a firmer foundation under the ~~exaggerating~~ formally good but essentially weak position of the NDP leadership and policy. which explains the many vacillations of Even Jewett not to speak of Broadbent and Blackburn. It is essentially based on the myth of Soviet aggression and the need for a Canadian defence. While opposed to NATO & NORAD it accepts the vast military budget which put Canada in the nuclear arms drive and in reality a supporter even though critical of the U.S. State department. We need to identify the party with the considerable forces around it who support the revolutionary drive in the so-called Third World-for instance Nicaragua-and and nuclear disarmament, not neutrality and pacifism -healthy sentiments-but which need to be developed to give the party a firm anti-war stance .We should be pressing the parliamentary caucus to drastically scale back the military budget, to withdraw Canadian forces from Europe and so-called peace keeping projects elsewhere. The question was raised of nuclear power and the sale of nuclear reactors and nuclear technology in the latter part of the discussion

ONDP Left Caucus--Forum on Pay Equity with Johnson-Meaghan and Lankin ~~exam~~ was successful. Attendance of our own forces and the Left Caucus not as good as could be hoped for but some women unionists, probably from the Labor Council mailing broadened it out. While it was not on topic Ross expressed regret that Johnson's statement of re-evaluating the traditional socialist opposition to coalitions was not challenged. For the first time we carried our own book display. Preparations for a May 26 forum are underway on the Shorter work week

Activist Party campaign rally planned for May 4 primarily to widen the slate Rebick appears to be committed to supporting Weisleder as a candidate despite the danger of giving the leadership the lever of anti-Trotskyism and the 4th in opposition of Ehring and Buchanan. A solid core of David, Bob, Dianne, Esther

Gord will be standing. David report a deterioration of working relationship with Rebick

Meeting adjourned

attendance

minutes- correspondence

membership and contacts

educational

educational class

SRDF-Kopyto -

NDP--NDPPE and Edctnl Policy Conf

Left Caucus,

Rebick campaign

anti-war

riding reports

Now business

discussion on coming Hamilton convention

Chairperson-- *Angie*

Minutes read and adopted

~~Correspondence~~ Ross reported that he had received a letter from Frank Cunningham of the Learned Society and the Socialist Studies Bulletin and Annual. Cunningham is taking the initiative of inviting Toronto adherents to discuss the possibility of their collaborating in the preparation and publication of the Society for Socialist Studies material from Toronto. Motion that Ross turn the material over to Angie who could seriously consider her involvement in this project--agreed
Ross also reported on correspondence from Toronto anti-intervention coalition preparations for demo-June 14. He has since received a phone call from Barry suggesting the NDP antiwar committee consider sending a rep to preparatory meetings next taking place Wednesday May 14

Membership and contacts--Affirmed that branch expects Ross to get in contact with Sabina with regards to her application for membership in branch.

Discussion on Lellie Nichol- general discussion--agreed that she is not only inexperienced but also naive--reported that she is seeking the endorsement of Bob Rae for her running for office in the ~~YND~~ Young New Democrats. Discussion on absence of Jeff from meetings--Gord will have a talk-Bill Cis in contact

Social at Sabina's came off but poorly attended. Agreed that the notice for social which was part of a calendar of events including May Day affairs was inadequate. Agreed that henceforth we assign a comrade or so to follow up notices with phone calls etc

NDP--Discussion on Antiwar committee work. Gord reported that the pamphlet preparations are underway. Discussion on strengthening the committee and taking some of the burden off Gord. Agreement that there are two comrades who should be considered to making this an area of their work--Bill Clinton and Jeff who is already connected with ACT. It was also suggested that we should press Chris Ross to play a more central role--all the more that Harry and Cheryl are considering moving to Vancouver.

NDP Preserve Public Education- detailed discussion and report on this area of work which will be central for the coming Ont NDP Convention. Spirit is high in the committee which has been meeting regularly. OSSTF is stepping up its involvement and we are in the process of counting riding support and delegates. Gord thinks that it is possible that we will defeat the party leadership on this at the convention. We are discussing with officials the possibility of a two hour period being allocated to this matter and the possibility of a ballot vote. The Tories in the Ont house are a factor in the progress of this legislation

Discussion on coming Sunday meeting of the Alternate slate-- General opinion that Barry W will be defeated in his attempt to get on the slate as of course the Orenstein's are certain to be. It will be broadened with Millard and Buchanan. Motion that we agree to run only three of the four comrades - Diane, David, Gordon, Kasher. Motion that the secretary contact these comrades some of whom are not in attendance and instruct them to get together before the meeting to determine who will step down--agreed.

SRDF-Kopyto suit. The leaflet for the Svend Robinson meeting will be off in the next ~~few~~ days. Law Union enthusiastic about Svend as featured speaker.

Clinton presenting his educational next meeting. Dawson will be discussing it with him

May 7, 1986
Ross Dowson, #2311
40 Homewood Ave
Toronto M4Y 2K2

Dear Anne

Thanks for the cheque on the Poundmaker costs.

Why didn't I go to Spain? It was apparent long before I was reaching political maturity that the struggle was doomed to defeat what with the overwhelming power of the reformists and the Stalinist brand of reformism. I had read Felix Morrow's book "Civil War in Spain" and then his "Revolution and Counter-revolution in Spain." Armed with the Trotskyist theory ~~imx~~ its understanding of the treacherous logic of popular frontism, the inadequacies of anarchist theory and the power of the Soviet bureaucracy, I knew that the revolution was headed to defeat. This was spelled out in a series of defeats---the February 1936 entry of the Poum and the Anarchists into the bourgeois popular front government in Feb 1936, and the 1937 outlawing of the POUM by the central government, and the arrest of its leaders -subsequently murdered by the Stalinist dominated police.

Andre Malraux attacked Trotsky who was launching an international effort to exonerate the old guard of the Bolshevik party who Stalin was framing as agents of Hitler and Mussolini. He said the ~~xxx~~ issue was not the Moscow Trials but Spain---Trotsky replied that the fate of the Spanish revolution was in reality being decided in Moscow. The revolutionists in Spain were murdered as agents of Hitler. ~~xxxx~~ I take it for granted that you have read Orwell's book Homage to Catalonia and also Animal Farm. Homage to Catalonia is an important book---not as important as Morrow or Trotsky but a vindication of the insight of the latter on the basis not of theory but his actual experiences in Spain.

The Stalinists and reformists of various stripes like to present the Spanish civil war as the precursor of WW II - ~~which they make present~~ ~~as a great~~ ~~liberatory~~ war against facism instead of an interimperialist war on all powers part other than the USSR which fought a defensive war. The only element of truth in this presentation is that with the defeat of the Spanish revolution the elements of which Orwell describes, WWII was inevitable

I remember trying to convince a leading young CPer who I met in the unemployed workers movement in Mount Dennis not to go to Spain. I was unable to do so and he lost his life in vain. Back in 1972 I wrote a small pamphlet on Canada's role in Spain including the role of the Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion. Our movement recruited a young CPer who had gone to Spain and was brought back to raise funds for the struggle. On the basis of his experiences he came to our conclusions and broke from the CP. If I had a Xerox machine here I would send you a copy. There is no doubt in my mind that in all probability if I had gone and survived the attempts of the fascists to do me in I would have been murdered by the secret police of the Popular Front Government headed by the Stalinists

I was up at the DEC bookroom from who I buy the books through which I ruthlessly exploit you and others and got talking to a woman on staff. After reading Animal Farm she said she could not bring herself to read Homage to Catalonia which shows how a political current on the left could play such a treacherous role as the CP and its supporters in the Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion and International Brigade could be used for such counter-revolutionary purposes

I hope by now that you have talked to Marv or Walker Jones about the latest moves to take our efforts beyond Judy Rabick. Gord-Diane and David T wabenow on the broadened slate which also on Gord's report endorsed Malcolm Buchanan and Alan Millard. There ~~is~~ is also a leading activist from Kingston and of course three from Ottawa. As they say we are now on a roll. Too bad you couldn't get up to the CLC convention and there little developments which are all so promising

Insofar as I have thought about my approaching death--as must come to all humans--I have left by my will all my possession to Gord and Lois ~~xxx~~ to be disposed of as they see fit. I think that is the best way and still do.

Yes, Marv's article in ~~this~~ This Magazine was a useful one but it should have been edited as I suggested I would have liked the opportunity to do. Unfortunately it gives nothing to the contradictory role of the trade union bureaucracy--the fact that here in Canada it supports the NDP against the Libs and Tories and of course Solidarnosc and even gives the appearance of supporting Nicaragua.

You should know that May 24th is closer than you think-- in actual fact this year the holiday is on May 19th. Lois and I and others will probably go down on the 18th. ..right after the Kopyto defence meeting. Hope to see you there

all the best

Ross

Chairperson--- Jeff

Minutes of April 30, 1986 read and adopted as read

Attendance - Harry K, Ross D, Jeff Smith, Bill C. Gord D. Esther

absent with known reason-John B, David T, Diane, Angie working

Contacts--Esther reported on a Polish worker in the NDP who in a discussion of the problems in NDP and her mention of the Forward Group expressed a desire to know more about Forward with possibility of joining. *arrange a meeting with him*

Educational; Bill C presented a document adopted by the 12th World Congress of the FI- The Present Stage of Building the Fourth International

a wide ranging document the high points of which Bill touched and which opened a discussion on problems that have developed recently--the SWP dispute and the permanent revolution, our concept of the international, proletarianization ~~and~~ and turning to industry

Educational for next branch meeting- Motion that it be on another document of the 12th World Congress--Dictatorship of the proletariat and socialist democracy.--to be presented by Harry.

NDP--- Left Caucus- the steering committee is arranging for the publication of two issues of the bulletin prior to the June 20-21 Ontario convention

The first should be out shortly and will carry a report of Left Caucus activity emphasizing the forums, a statement of the Caucus identifying itself with the Activist Party campaign, and article on the Accord etc.

The NDPPE is meeting every week, turnover-but good attendance and participation. They have decided to edit and re-circulate the statement that was put out last year. The Left Caucus is planning to approach Activist Party to get their agreement to arrange a meeting open to all delegates to the coming NDP convention for a discussion on the issues coming before the convention-if possible in first week in June

York Mills gave a sizeable donation to the NDP P.E. Diane reported that York Centre riding meeting finally came off

St. George has held no meeting--St A & P arranging meeting to hear Rebeck Camp Poundmaker-- Camp opening taking place over Sunday-Monday May 18 and 19. Supper being spread in the lodge Sunday--all welcome--note that it is a week earlier this year

Harry reported that the Law Society has summoned him to appear before them over October 21-23.

RD moved a motion that we ask Kasher to turn the Group's books over to JohnD so we can collect pledges from comrades to pay rent and any other projects authorized by branch --agreed

Next branch meeting May 27th

Chairperson--Doctorow

Minutes of previous meeting May 13 read and adopted as read

Attendance- Absent- Jeff, Diane, Bacher, David (late)

Membership and contacts; Ross reported on his discussion with Sabina on her application to join Forward. Not only is her political involvement on any level of the labor and socialist movement low but she has little interest in political developments and socialist ideas. Ross left her a copy of the major resolutions of the 12th World Congress of the Fourth Intl. and she agreed to study them so that Ross could have a worthwhile discussion in a week or so. She is working on a voluntary basis in the public library anticipating that could lead to a part time job there and membership in the union. Ross also reported on a discussion with Joe Maslin who sustains interest in the activity of the Forward Group and the world movement--he bought a copy of the Mandel polemic with the Australian defectors from the FI. He again appealed to us to see if it is possible to move into the Workmens Circle which Ross said he would raise with the group although he saw little possibility of our sparing the energy

Report on the coming May 31 rally in support of South African struggle

It was agreed that we would get what NDP banners we could to rally NDP supporters behind them. Ross will contact Harry Paine re the anti-war committee banner. Preliminary report on contact Mike Kaken - By Gord

SRDF-Kopyto Defence- The rally in support of Kopyto and the Defence Fund held on a Saturday night May 15 at the B of Edctn auditorium was a big success despite the unfavorableness of a Saturday night made necessary to meet guest speaker Svend Robinson's schedule. Rabbi Slonim gave an inspired oration in tribute of Kopyto, seconded by a contribution by Heap

Both Mandel and Robinson made valuable contributions. The audience responded with enthusiasm and with a good collection to the Defense fund. Roach and Anna also made good contributions. A friend of Ellie K's is organizing a benefit through the Bamboo club--we will be informed of the date August 7 ?? Kim Marvell ?? An excellent article by former comrade Dick Fidler has appeared in the Law Union paper

Educational--Harry presented and commented on the World Congress resolution on the Dictatorship of the Proletariat and Socialist Democracy--discussion.

Next meeting educational, moved by Harry that it be on the coming Ont NDP convention with David emphasizing the strategy of the Left and Gord emphasizing our contribution in the key political issues in debate. It was stressed that all comrades make a serious effort to rally contacts to the pre-convention rally being called to discuss the convention by the Left Caucus/June--7;30-Bloor Collegiate. A mailing is being arranged for the Left Caucus Newsletter concentrating on the convention issues and the unity policy of the Left Caucus with regards to the Committee for an Activist Party

Report by David on the Left's preparations for convention--CAP campaign is proceeding. Rick and others addressing meetings. CAP a dinner and social on the 7th and a meeting on the 8th. Unease was expressed about the Left Caucus and CAP proceeding with separate pre-convention rallies and discussion. Dave affirmed his opinion that it was not possible to hold a common meeting and felt that the CAP Sunday meeting is not a good time to assure its success

The key issue is shaping up as the Public Funding of RC High Schools the NDPPE-New Democrats for Preservation of Education is proposing a complete reversal of the NDP's position through a motion to refer

Next meeting June 10

THE LEFT CAUCUS WARNED THAT THE LIBERAL/NDP ACCORD IS
FRAUGHT WITH DANGER FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR PARTY

One year ago ONDP Left Caucus activists in a petition they circulated at the June provincial council meeting warned that the Accord the parliamentary caucus has committed the party to with the capitalist Liberal party machine is "fraught with danger for our party".

Aside from hardening the leadership's commitment to its increasingly contested support of public funding of RC high schools, the Accord by its very nature of being acceptable to the Liberals, covers over all the major features that distinguish the NDP from the Liberals while they prepare for an election with the aim of turning their minority into a majority. The Accord, warned the Left Caucus statement, sets our own party onto the path of "accommodation and coalition with the Liberals".

How Bob Rae himself saw the Accord was not revealed in any of the discussions such as were held before the party membership. He blurted it out over CBC's Morningside, "Coalition with the Liberal party is next on the agenda and that's good", he said. Since then various off-the-cuff remarks reveal that many caucus members are now aiming not to build the NDP as an independent force for socialism but to win a post not so subject to electoral chance and which they vainly hope will be useful, in a cabinet of an NDP-Liberal Coalition government. Regret that this has not already taken place has been expressed by several caucus members, with Richard Johnson telling a Left Caucus-sponsored forum that the principled tradition of no coalitions with capitalist parties has to be "rethought" by NDP'ers.

The only reason for there not being a coalition is the simple fact that the Liberals see no need for one. They are increasingly confident that they will sweep the next election. The Accord that has served to muffle the NDP, convinced them of that, as recent polls affirm a de-

cline in NDP support is taking place.

This adventure shows a weakness in leadership and the urgency of strengthening the party's commitment to the building of a socialist democracy in Canada.

Ross Dowson, St. George

SERIES OF LEFT CAUCUS FORUMS

Ross Dowson, #2311
40 Homewood Ave.,
Toronto, Canada, M4Y2k2
June 1, 1986

Winkler 05/10/86

To Breitman Memorial meeting

Comrades;

debilitating To my profound regret I never really got to know George Breitman in the way that I would have liked. My personal acquaintance with George was curbed by his long and terribly ~~de-~~ debilitating illnesses and by the fact that as an individual I was and still am officially barred from entry by those who hold the power in the United States of America and so grossly abuse that power both within its borders and beyond on the world political arena.

But in actuality I knew George very well and over a period of some 50 years. I knew him as an unconquerable spirit fighting to overcome every obstacle no matter how formidable to give leadership to generations of youth who came to the liberatory views of revolutionary Marxism which he so effectively learned to interpret develop and advance, I always sought out any information about George, anything and everything that he spoke or wrote about.

While I am almost his exact contemporary, and in astonishing way parallel his own political evolution I have always looked to him, yes, along with Trotsky himself, as one of my mentors and one of my most favorite ones too - particularly for the innovativeness, the insightfulness, lucidity and simplicity of his thought.

The comrades of the Fourth Internationalist Tendency particularly - but all of us who had the privilege of knowing him and his work have the responsibility and the great honour to see that the gap caused by his death is rapidly filled and in the great spirit of his example.

in revolutionary solidarity

Ross Dowson

Ross Dowson, #2311
40 Homewood Ave.,
Toronto M4Y 2K2
June ,1, 1986

Jesse Vorst
Society for Socialist Studies-424993
471 University College, University of
Manitoba Winnipeg, Man R3T 2M8

Dear Jesse;

Thanks for your notes. By Now you should have received the 450 copies of the brochure on the Kopyto case. I met Danny Goldstick on the anti-Apartheid march here on Saturday but it turns out that he will not be at the sessions this year. I showed him what to my knowledge is the first and only comment on the eight-year long struggle against the RCMP by the CP Canadian Tribune. To my mind it is truly shocking. They don't even mention my name and the group that was the target of the RCMP, the LSA-LSO which they stand aside from defending ~~it~~ by smearing it as an ultra left group--which none of the trade union groups or the NDP even so much as raised--clearly understanding that it was an attack on us all. Pitiful. Why the Italian CP has become an orthodox reformist-social -democratic formation, the Canadian CP remains rigidly Stalinist.

I took out time from the preparations for the Ontario NDP convention which promises to be a hectic one (see the Left Caucus bulletin along with our I think excellent 1983 Manifesto,) to scan the No 5 Socialist Studies Bulletin and to scan the latest Zed books catalogue.

Zed books is handled by DEC Publications here in Toronto located at 229 College Street M5T 1R4--telephone 416-597-0328. They list a new title-The Meek and the Militant-religion and power across the World. Both Ernest Mandel and Christopher Hill give it high praise and it is right on topic of session J-Socialism and Religion which I see you are the coordination of and Penner is chair. I am sure you are up to the top of your head in details but I wonder if there is not someone--possibly the bookstore there that is servicing the conference who could get on the phone and order some copies that could easily get there for the conference and be effectively circulated.

I have turned over the material that you have sent me to Angie Codina, a friend of Harry Kopyto--suggesting that they might consider make the conference--the latter possibly working out some collaboration with Frank Cunningham here in Toronto

sincerely

Ross Dowson

Minutes of the Toronto Forward Group June 10, 1986 (R.D. Rec. Sect'y)

Dowson- secretary--- Chairperson -Jeff--

Minutes of previous meeting adopted as read

attendance - absent with known reason- Ester, Bacher, ~~Wanda~~, ^{Angie + Harry}, Dave late
Membership and contacts- discussion on Fettes, Leslie, Sabina, Gord raised matter of our ongoing lack of contact with Bacher

Finances- John presented a summary financial report

NDP anti-war committee- Report by Bill on committee's participation in the Anti-Intervention Coalition demo. The banner was carried and almost a thousand copies of a leaflet reproducing the resolution on Central America passed by the last NDP convention were circulated with good effect

Report on Campaign for and Activist Party and Left Caucus preparations for convention by David- CAP supper-dinner June 7 was a modest success. The Sunday meeting saw some petty factionalism--with Marv commenting on the distribution of Left Caucus bulletin at the Labour Council meeting although the bulletin headed off with an article on Left Caucus-CAP unity and with the joint slate prominently displayed. Dave stressed the importance of the Left Caucus pre-convention rally on June 12. Rebick has agreed to appear. At June 8 meeting despite little hassle it was agreed that at the convention there would be a joint Left Caucus -CAP rally to pull the convention experience together. New Democrats for the Preservation of Public Education NDPPE report by Gord Bill 30 will not in all probability be passed before the convention debate but the trade union caucus will be lining up forces against NDPPE. NDPPE is well prepared for the convention and will be intervening effectively
Next branch meeting will be held after the Hamilton convention on Thursday June 26

June 15, 1986
Ross Dowson, #2311
40 Homewood Ave
Toronto M4Y2K2

Arnie

Arnue Mintz
9 Moray Road
London, N43LE
England

Dear Arnie;

Last March 17, I received a copy of the book Against the Stream in the mail. I copied the address from which it came, from the wrapping it came in.

I have been anticipating that you would be sending a covering note--but to no avail and have at last finally decided that I must recognize receipt of it whether or not.

I would like to thank you very much for sending it on to me. I haven't yet taken the time to study it, but have on several occasions referred to it. These peeks into it have convinced me that it is a very serious work and to allocate the necessary time in the next month or so to study it.

The fact is that I have been very busy working to build the left opposition to the trade union and political reformists in the NDP here. This is all coming to a climax within the next few weeks and the Ontario NDP convention taking place in Hamilton. Two big issues will be before the delegates--the parliamentary caucus' support of allocating public funds to the Catholic high schools and the "accord" that they have worked out with the Liberals who are now in office in Ontario. For the first time since the Waffle we have been able to link forces with other leftists who are ~~the~~ in the single issue matters such as abortion.

I am enclosing a copy of the Left Caucus with an article written by Gordon Doctorow who you will perhaps remember and an article by myself

and again thanks for the book

with socialist greetings

Ross

Ross Dowson #2311
40 Homewood Ave.,
Toronto M4Y 2K2
June 15, 1986

Geoff Hoare
38 Melgund Ave.,
Ottawa, Ont. K1S 2S2

Dear Geoff;

I received your mysterious parcel a couple of days ago and unwrapped it with care to find the splendid example of BC Indian --Native--art. Very beautiful. It is a pity that Leah Jeffries did not think to find a more suitable material to work in. I am afraid for the future preservation of the work. Dust and general dirt may soon wreak in credible harm if I cannot find a more suitable way of displaying it than hanging it from the fragile string - we will have to find some way of putting it under glass I would suppose

I am sure that you are acquainted with the work of the people of the 'Ksan - reproduced in a fine brochure published by the National Museum of Man in 1972. This little work has the same feeling as the work on the blankets, the Chilkat that are worn and displayed by the artists.

I was up at the Mervish bookstore and came across a new publication on Rivera. It did not strike me as very useful--the plates are miserably small--reduced to fit on the page. I don't think there is anything yet that replaces the Bertland Wolfe books--Portrait of America, Portrait of Mexico and the biography. Of course Wolfe was more interested in the politics than the aesthetic concepts of Rivera and I would think that for a whole period Wolfe was a good influence on this megalomaniac man...as Wolfe was a supporter of the Bukharin opposition to developing Stalinism. Rivera was expelled from the CP in 1929. After the murder of Trotsky in which the CP and in particular Siqueiros played a despicable role, Rivera humiliated himself by applying for readmission to the CP condemning his own Man at the Crossroads mural (late 1952). During the war years the CPs of Central and Latin America supported Roosevelt and WW II --the Cuban supported Batista-- the Nicaraguans --Somoza. I wrote an appreciation of Rivera at the time of his death. If I can come across it I will send you a Xerox of it.

Perhaps we will be seeing one another shortly at Poundmaker

sincerely

Ross Dowson

Ross Dowson #2311
40 Homewood Ave.,
Toronto M4Y 2K2, CANADA

Manitoba New Democrat
656 Broadway
K3C 0X3
Sub 10
Bulletin IDOM
P.O. Box 1317
New York, N.Y., 10009., U.S.A.

Dear Comrades;

Enclosed you will find a B.M.O. for the US equivalent of 100 Cdn dollars. This is to go to the covering of a one year subscription to the bulletin to go to

Arthur Gray, #912
40 Homewood Ave.,
Toronto, M4Y 2K2, CANADA. //THE REMAINDER TO GO
AS A DONATION TO THE PUBLICATION FUND. Would you please send a receipt to go to Gray.

Some months back when I received the copy of the October issue of the Bulletin I decided that I must write you a note for publication protesting the publication of the article on page 8 titled Socialist International Caves in on Central America. This is the first time since then that I have found time to take up this matter so a letter to the editor does not seem practical. However I feel that I should send you some comments for circulation to the editors.

Granted that there is nothing ~~impossible~~ impossible for individual parties of the Second International or for ~~the~~ its affiliates in congress to do I was truly surprised to read that the delegates caved in not only in ~~San~~ Salvador but on Nicaragua too hence your headlined conclusion on the fight for self-determination in Central America.

The main reason for my surprise was the fact that here in Canada the trade union endorsed New Democratic Party, the Canadian affiliate to the Second International, has up until now at least taken a very strong position in support of the Nicaraguan revolution and the Sandinista National Liberation Front. I happened to be a delegate from my riding association to the 1985 convention held in Ottawa. There were two truly notable events at that convention - 1) the tumultuous response of the delegates to the appearance and to the addresses of the top ~~governmental~~ Nicaraguan leaders who appeared before them. It was both tumultuous and unanimous and had to be brought to an end to get on with the great deal of business --including the re-affirmation of the party's position on withdrawal from both NATO and NORAD which the leadership was desperately trying to modify.

Breese's article was so much at variance with what I know of the NDP's policy that I read the article much closer than usual and tried to check out what the NDP representatives actually did say there. There was nothing in the bourgeois dailies which one would have anticipated would rub their hands in glee at the party's leadership's betrayal of the Ottawa delegates. But the paper of the Manitoba NDP where the party is in office carried what would appear to be the verbatim record of NDP leader Broadbent's address to the Lima Conference. Some parts of the speech are poor but the central line is crystal clear and in the name of the Second International Broadbent closes - "We will stand united with Latin American in their insistence on shaping their own destiny"

For your information the Tory government in Ottawa has continued to defy U.S. pressure to cut off aid that it has been sending to Nicaragua (such as it is) The former Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau recently made an incisive condemnation of US policy in Central America .

Knowing the above it is hard to understand the vindictive, "as we told you all along" tone of the Brosse article, its lack of quotes--- Is the Miami Herald an authority in the eyes of the Bulletin. One of the realities of today is that many of the parties of the Second International are mass parties and are responding to varying degrees to the world-wide anti-US imperialist sentiments that I know you are inspired by and want to familiarize the US working class with. The US left is not alone and should seek to inspire the American workers with such developments as the labor party here in Canada along with the demonstrative separation of the Canadian union movement from the US so-called international leadership

Now with the scandal of Contragate we will no doubt see the strengthening of those opposing US policy in Central America within the parties of the Second International and elsewhere

with socialist greetings

Ross Dowson

Nicaragua and The Socialist International

by Ed Broadbent, Leader, NDP

Delivered at the Socialist International Congress, Saturday, June 21, 1986, Lima, Peru.

We, in the Socialist International, have always had to face the inescapable problem of reconciling certain universal principles with their application at a given time to countries with widely differing social, political and economic histories. The moral principles of socialism, of equality, liberty and solidarity are applied constantly by ourselves within our own nations at any given time. This we take for granted. Just as we must make assessments at home so too, must we do so in looking at other nations.

When we talk about democracy, pluralism, religious freedom, human rights and self-determination, they are not mere abstractions or relevant to only certain nations. Self-determination is relevant to Nicaragua and to Afghanistan, sexual equality relevant to Iran and to Canada; human rights of prisoners relevant to Chile and to Peru. As Willy Brandt said: "Socialism without human rights is like Christianity without Christ."

Nicaragua

Beginning in 1978, at our congress in Vancouver, we have watched, encouraged and supported the democratic overthrow of the Somoza Regime and all it stood for in Nicaragua. We have supported that government's stated commitment to political pluralism, a mixed economy and non-alignment. Many SI member parties and leaders have visited Nicaragua.

We have admired the determined

progress made in providing universal education and health services for their people. At the same time, we have noticed that the governing body includes Marxist/Leninist elements with which we are in fundamental disagreement; we are aware that trade unions affiliated to the ICFTU are discriminated against; we know that there is not the full range of human rights: in short, most of us as Social Democrats with our eyes open and our principles clear are not in a state of illusion about the general circumstances of Nicaragua and how they differ at this moment from social democracy.

This having been, we are also committed to the equally important but quite different principle of national self-

***"Superpowers,
democratic or not, must
keep their hands off other
nations."***

determination. And we assert that the people of Nicaragua have this right. We hope they choose the path of social democracy. But whether they do or not, it is their right to decide, not ours.

The Reagan administration may want Nicaragua, Jamaica, Peru and Brazil and all of South and Central America to choose the route of capitalist democracy, but it is the right of these peoples, not that of the U.S. government, to choose their own destiny. We must make this very clear. Superpowers, democratic or not, must keep their hands off other nations. There are not two systems of international law. There is only one system and it holds for all the nations of this world.

Hostile Acts

Yesterday, I jotted down a list illustrating the extent of the U.S. Government's

hostility aimed at Nicaragua. I sympathize with you because I believe it is important for us to understand and consider how it could be applied to others in the region.

- 1) Cutting off of aid after Sandinistas came into power;
- 2) Determined action in international financial institutions, like the world bank, to get loans cut off and credit removed from Nicaragua;
- 3) Mining of Corinto Harbour by the CIA (followed) by announcement that U.S. will not accept ruling of the world court;
- 4) The production of a terrorist handbook to be used by those opposed to the Nicaragua government;
- 5) Imposition of a total economic embargo;
- 6) CIA provision of covert "humanitarian" aid to the contras;
- 7) Extensive naval exercises off the coast of Nicaragua;
- 8) Militarisation of Honduras: putting in runways and other facilities to serve as a structure for launching of attacks against Nicaragua.

Why the Aggression?

Nicaragua is smaller and less powerful than Massachusetts! Does anyone seriously think Nicaragua would launch an attack or act for the USSR?

Surely it must be seen as the refusal by the United States administration to accept any newly emerging central American state as legitimate if it does not comply with the U.S. model of development. The clear message from the Reagan administration is: either copy our pattern of development or we will make life difficult or impossible.

Central Americans cannot accept this. South Americans cannot accept this.

And the Socialist International does not accept this. We will stand united with Latin Americans in their insistence on shaping their own destiny.

Nicaragua and The Socialist International

by Ed Broadbent, Leader, NDP

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Discussion . Agreed that Kopyto stand firm on the committees demand that the charge be dropped--that the whole process is in violation of free speech --a fundamental principle to which we are fully committed
Motion that the next branch meeting by July 29 -agreed
A

#Report by Diane on showdown struggle that she had at the ridings last meeting with the right wing cabal who have been making innuendos about funds she is alleged to owe the riding and the smear campaign that she is an anti-Catholic bigot in her opposition against public funding of Catholic high schools. Now that they have been taken on right out in the open it is possible that this unprincipled campaign against her for her socialist views will tend to subside although this riding is going to be reconstituted along with *other Ontario ridings*

Chairperson-elect Diane

Minutes of previous meeting of July 15, 1986 read...several corrections-- Lee Zoalovsky's comments not made at the CAP social, not the newly constituted Armadale riding but the dissolving York Mills riding is holding the banquet to be addressed by Ray --adopted as corrected. Gord inquired as to whether secretary is sending copies of minutes to Glenn, Piatti, Dowson and now Bacher who is unable to get in to Toronto meetings with any regularity. Secretary reported that this practice had been inadvertently tapering off. Motion to commence sending them out again---passed unanimously

Attendance--Diane, Ross, Esther, Gord, Bill, David late

Membership and contacts- Bill reported on response of Jeff to regular participation in branch activity and meetings. Jeff made it quite clear that he is reluctant to get involved with reconstructing the anti-war committee which he accepted as an assignment

and feels that he gets little from and feeds little into the Forward Group. Motion to assign a couple of comrades to have a serious discussion with him. Diane and Gord nominated and accepted this task.

Report by Bill on behalf of committee struck off to recommend the structuring of a class, and educational for the coming Poundmaker weekend.

Motion that Ross be asked to give an overview of the Farm question today to be given at the camp at a time suitable to those in attendance. Agreed.

Motion that we hold a three part class in Toronto on Socialists and the NDP that they be held on the 14th of August, the 25th of August and September the 4th. That we approach Art Gray for permission to hold it in his apartment which is very central and more roomy than Ross's place, that they all start at 7:45 with a maximum 35 to 45 minute presentation leaving plenty of time for discussion and that we make a substantial effort to mobilize our contacts to assure its success. Phone lists will be handed of names and numbers best known to the phoner and we are to look forward to lively participation of all comrades in the questions and discussion. The first one to be given by Gord on the recent Ontario convention, the role of The Left Caucus and CAP, the central issues before the delegates and the policies of the leadership on public funding of high schools, their Accord with the Liberals and the revelations as to their desire for a coalition government. The Second to be given by David on Electoralism and Socialism and the third to be given by Ross on the challenge and opportunities that the NDP is to ~~revolutionize~~ militant socialists.

Anti-war Decision to mobilize supporters of the NDP anti-war committee for both the Nagasaki and the Hiroshima commemorations, that we make a big effort to promote sales of the new button put out by the committee

Left Caucus- The Steering committee next meeting within the next few weeks - to plan Fall forums

NDPPE- Diane reported that the Coalition is being revived with a two fold mandate--to carry the fight onto the next stage of the struggle and to serve as an ombudsman

Educational- on the USSR in the light of recent developments-the Gorbachov leadership, the Recent congress of the CPSU and the political revolution. presented by Dave

Next branch meeting August 12

Bill assigned to prepare educational discussion on the nature of the Soviet bureaucracy
adjourned

961-4554

Ross Dowson, #2311

40 Homewood Ave.,

Toronto M4Y 2K2

August 8, 1986

Judy Stoffman & Danny Stoffman
c/o Lester & Orpen Dennys

I only came across Beverley Stopen's note in last Sunday's
Star on your preparation of Ksader's Kbpakci's for publication as
In the Name of the Working Class.

It immediately called to mind the Summer 1985 issue of a
magazine published in England called Labour Focus in Eastern Europe.
That issue contained for the first time in English a speech that
Imre Nagy delivered to the central committee of the Hungarian Workers
Party on June 27 1953. To some considerable degree this speech
projects the famed speech that Khrushov delivered to the startled
delegates to the 20th Congress of the CPSU--but some three years earlier.
A preceding issue of Labor Focus reproduced an informed article by
a leading worker-militant on the Budapest Commune, which he headed up.

Probably you are aware that the Canadian Labour Congress has
very firmly identified itself with the Solidarnosc movement. The
Ontario office on Gervais Boulevard has allocated space to an official
representative of Solidarnosc who published a bulletin that is circulate
from there. They might be approached with a view to helping promote
your book. They might be helpful to the film crews you have coming.

I have a broken file of Labour Focus which appeared irregularly
over the past couple of years. It has just recently been taken over
by the publisher of New Left Review and I am expecting the first
issue of the new series any day now.

sincerely

Ross Dowson

September 14, 1986
#2311-40 Homewood Ave.
Toronto M4Y2K2-961-4554

Dear Anne

A week or so ago I was called by Greyhound bus to pick up an unidentified (unspecified) parcel from Ottawa which I promptly did. An electric or perhaps an electronic typewriter. Probably you know that Murray had one in Ottawa under contract with a women student who was agreeable to typing up his articles. I guessed this was it as I seem to recall phoning the student that she could deliver it to you. At anyrate I phoned Lois and she thought likewise and said she would pick it up from my place--you know that she and Jerry are the executors. I did not unwrap it but could see the make. This caused confusion as it was not the same make as she knew Murray's was. In the meantime since my tape recorder told me that you had phoned I phoned you in Ottawa. One time Claire answered--then a couple of times I got no answer until one of the fellows in the house told me that you were on your way to Toronto to pick up a car from Jeanette or Eleonora since both of them have moved recently we have no phone numbers, but I figured that you might phone my apartment. Since they had lots of space I gather Lois and Jerry put the typewriter in the car they drove to Ottawa--to learn that you had sent the typewriter to me personally as a gift I take it. Very nice but it is still plagued with mystery. However I will see you at the camp in a week or so and all will be clarified

I was up to Mirvish's art book store yesterday --came across and had time to examine and then buy for \$70.20 a superb book-Diego Rivera-a Retrospective-prepared and published by the Founders Society Detroit Institute of Art Association with W.W. Norton of New York. Of course the plates are too small for my liking but it is a book of serious scholarship--it will be the book on Rivera for a generation of so thus I spent the money gladly. I am now in the process of examining it--little things wrong with it like the dust wrapper noting that the Rockefeller Center murals "were destroyed because of public outrage over their strongly pro-communist content." --not by the Rockefellers themselves - although we have to concede that it was somewhat of a provocation. Some excellent essays several of which--Jeff will enjoy--in particular Rivera and the concept of Proletarian Art by Anais and the influence of Rivera on the Art of the US by O'Connor, etc. The article on the New Workers School panels contains some interesting info --for instance there were two small panels that may still be or will appear on the market-.89 X .81 meters--one offered for sale by Sotheby's only last year 6/11/85 and another at the time of publication "unlocated" but which publication will probably locate. We will have to get the Ottawa Gallery to purchase it --what influence has we--or take up a collection and buy it ourselves - It would also be very good if every art gallery library could be convinced to buy either a VHS or Beta video cassette from the Detroit Gallery for \$20-- Both the book and cassettes would shake up some of those dead-ended and nihilist Cdn artists displayed in Ottawa last month

see you at the camp

best regards

Ross

(Handwritten letter)

Saturday Aug. 16/86

To: R. Salutin, Associate editor
This Magazine, Ottawa

Dear Rick:

The material in this envelope was addressed to you. I am sending it on for your disposal as you see fit.

Murray died Friday morning shortly after arising. I am in the process of arranging a funeral service in the chapel of Prospect Cemetery in Toronto this coming Thursday.

I do not know what relations he established with you but in my opinion he was a capable and leading trade union activist in the Toronto area during and in the immediate post-war years.

During the war he organized a CCF industrial unit in De Havilland (UAW) that became the leading force in this (at that time) militant local – prior to that he had been a Toronto area organizer of the Operating Engineers – and late recording secretary of the Steelworkers at Standard Modern Tool and a leading activist with Reg Screen in the CCM UAW local. Leading militants across the Toronto area came to consult him on many matters. A person who was most acquainted with this phase of Murray's life and who could fill you in with many details of interest is Goodyear workers militant Vic Hugh who is listed in the phone book, a resident on Coronado Court – Weston.

Perhaps someone from This Magazine will come to the service. It is possible that some important activists of the late 40s into the 50s & sixties will come and make contributions.

With fraternal regards,
Ross Dowson

Minutes of the Toronto Forward Group August 26, 1986 (A.D. Sec. Sect'y.)

elected to chair--Gordon D

Attendance- David T, Ross D, Gordon D, Jeff, Bill C, Kasher

Minutes of August 12 read. The report on the first class of the series Socialism and the NDP which was actually held on August 14 as scheduled was ^{mistakenly} included in the minutes of a meeting held on August 12th and therefore should be deleted. Motion to adopt minutes with this deletion--passed
Business arising out of minutes re instructions to secretary to inform Esther that she not pursue course she appears to be contemplating with regards to Leslie Nichols' taping of NDP women's committee meeting. Dowson reported that he contacted Esther to acquaint her of branch request that she take no action until the branch could have a more detailed discussion of what is involved. Esther was adamant in her refusal to discuss the matter any further and informed Dowson that he could have no knowledge of what she was going to do as she would no longer attend branch meetings. Dowson's protest that she was walking out of the movement without her comrades having an opportunity to work out any relation with her was tragic for both her and ourselves was in vain. Motion that we drop her from membership with prejudice against her future return pending her arriving at an understanding of the critical importance of the movement for achieving a socialist Canada. passed.

contacts-- discussion on Fettes. Report on the excellent role that Leslie B is carrying on in her OPSEU local--along with report on Susan Vallant. Report on very friendly contribution by Ernest Tate at the class and the fact that Steve Shorter is buying some of the most important writings of Trotsky-- Unfortunately Shorter is difficult to involve in discussion
Class-- motion to postpone class on the USSR in view of absence of Diane passed. Motion to hold it next branch meeting--passed

Discussion on Left Caucus and the coming Steering Committee meeting on Thursday. Motion that we see to it that a formal communication be sent out by the Steering Committee to the Committee for an Activist Party that we proceed with a joint meeting as already agreed to as early as possible--agreed. Also agreed to see that this steering committee itself have a preliminary discussion on organizing a series of topical forums in Toronto this coming fall and that the first one be arranged before the agreed upon joint conference with CAP. It was also agreed that we attempt to convince the steering committee to take on a more organized structure to raise funds, handle the next issue of the bulletin, etc--agreed

Labour Day parade. NDP anti-war committee may circulate copies of a telegram that it may send to the New Zealand LP government-- The banner will be ~~paraded~~ paraded and the new button will be sold.

Kpyto Defence--- Barb-Q came off successfully-- the legal advisory committee is meeting Wednesdays Leaflet being prepared by Maureen and Anah with Roach's aid for possible circulation at Labor Day parade

Class-- August 25th class by Dave was a big success--13 persons attended among them some of our best contacts. Next class by Ross on September 4
Next branch meeting September 9

Fred OFE
Callahan Sept 20/86

~~16-4611~~ ~~Marvin Osherson~~

Whereas international and national ^{corporate} interests are both scaling back and ^{often} ofte

completely closing down key industries and factories that ~~amphamx~~ provide

employment to the overwhelming majority of the working class of this

country ^{often} ~~often~~ turning long time industrial communities into waste lands

and whereas this devastating process is resulting in increasing unemployment

not only of longtime employees ^N who have ~~lost~~ ^{lessens} ~~lost~~ job flexibility and a widespread

loss of job openings for new generations attempting to find their place

in the labor force

and whereas various levels of government have responded to this crisis

by opening up the public treasury to provide extensive loans and increased

privileges to corporate interests which with ~~any change in their inter~~

~~can~~ ^{do} can and ^{such} fold up ^{just} operations and walk away and by (b) ~~xxx~~ implementing

a policy of ^{privatization} selling off ^{usually} ~~usually~~ at give-away prices ^{entire industries} that have been sustained

through government ownership ^(privatization)

Therefore be it resolved that we demand that the government intervene to

bring a halt to plant closures and reverse the process of privatization by

implementing a policy of increased public ownership ^(under workers control) with the aim of re-

tooling productive processes ^{in order to} with the aim of assuring employment

in established communities and with the participation of the union movement

implement a program of workers control of these industries

Whereas

150

across Canada ~~and~~ ~~the~~ international and national corporate interests are ~~down~~ ~~both~~ ~~scales~~ back and ^{crushing} closing down some of the key industries and factories that have been the largest employers of the ~~and~~ working class in this country after turning long time industrial communities into waste ~~and~~ waste lands

and whereas this process ~~which is~~ ~~destabilizing~~ ~~the~~ ~~original~~ ~~movement~~ ~~and~~ resulting in increasing unemployment ~~and~~ ~~the~~ ~~loss~~ of those who ~~are~~ ~~long~~ ~~time~~ ~~employees~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~country~~ ~~and~~ ~~the~~ ~~loss~~ of openings for new generations ~~who are~~ ~~destined~~ ~~to~~ ~~enter~~ ~~the~~ ~~labor~~ ~~force~~

and whereas ~~the~~ ~~various~~ ~~level~~ ~~of~~ ~~govt~~ ~~have~~ ~~responded~~ ~~to~~ ~~this~~ ~~development~~ ~~largely~~ ~~by~~ ~~opening~~ ~~the~~ ~~public~~ ~~treasury~~ ~~to~~ ~~large~~ ~~loans~~ ~~and~~ ~~increased~~ ~~privileges~~ ~~to~~ ~~corporate~~ ~~interests~~ ~~which~~ ~~with~~ ~~any~~ ~~change~~ ~~of~~ ~~business~~ ~~conditions~~ ~~can~~ ~~and~~ ~~do~~ ~~set~~ ~~up~~ ~~and~~ ~~walk~~ ~~away~~ ~~with~~ ~~the~~ ~~profits~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~industries~~ ~~that~~ ~~have~~ ~~been~~ ~~sustained~~ ~~by~~ ~~govt~~ ~~ownership~~ ~~to~~ ~~various~~ ~~corporate~~ ~~interests~~ ~~Therefore~~ ~~be~~ ~~it~~ ~~resolved~~ ~~that~~ ~~the~~ ~~govt~~ ~~in~~ ~~alliance~~ ~~with~~ ~~the~~ ~~present~~ ~~owners~~ ~~of~~ ~~these~~ ~~industries~~ ~~stop~~ ~~the~~ ~~plant~~ ~~closures~~ ~~and~~ ~~reverse~~ ~~the~~ ~~process~~ ~~by~~ ~~establishing~~ ~~govt~~ ~~ownership~~ ~~of~~ ~~the~~ ~~product~~ ~~of~~ ~~these~~ ~~industries~~ ~~process~~ ~~to~~ ~~assure~~ ~~employment~~ ~~in~~ ~~established~~ ~~communities~~ ~~that~~ ~~our~~ ~~union~~ ~~respond~~ ~~to~~ ~~this~~ ~~challenge~~ ~~by~~ ~~raising~~ ~~the~~ ~~demand~~ ~~for~~ ~~workers~~ ~~control~~ ~~of~~ ~~these~~ ~~industries~~ ~~of~~ ~~democratic~~

150 word

Fred Callahan

Workers Control

reverse unemployment

Stop plant closures

Stop privatization

Reverse - increase public ownership

Establish workers control

(achievement of Stan Gray - Health + Safety

100's of pulp + paper workers at Kimberly Clark of Cda 7th

Premier Peterson rebuffed protesters who sought action
against closure -

some of lowest prop - correctly so - 3rd world
challenged workers to propose solutions suitable to North

"There are not huge solutions to the problem there
are hundreds of little solutions ... The
main drive in many ways has to come from here"

His refusal to patronize won him applause

A failure of leadership on his part - Bankrupt

Moncton

CNR closing main shop there

federal cabinet has refused to intervene Sept 16

Selling it to Can Gen Electric - means 437 layoffs
will spend new funds to attract business to Moncton

(10)

Minutes of Toronto Forward Group Thursday October 9, 1986 (N.D. Rec. Secty).

Minutes of previous meeting not taken because of confusion as to time and place on set date of September 25, 1986

Attendance- Tomczac and Kashor not accounted for--Jeff caught up in Russian class, Diane with mother in hospital- Darling has to work-Angie-Harrymixup

Bill C, Gordon D. and Ross present

Membership and contacts- Fred Callahan contacted Ross re a resolution for Steel convention. Nik Marchese now taking journalism at Ryerson had long discussion with Ross re an article that he is preparing on the Dowson-Kopyto suit. Esther B working with Lois on NDP womens committee

NDP - Ross reported on first stirrings of the long quiescent Ward 6 NDP riding- he was invited to what turned out to be an activist executive meeting called to organize canvas of North Jarvis members as to how they want the riding to go in the next period, inaugural meeting of St. George-St. Davids riding has been called for October 27

Bill C reported on Scarborough-Agincourt riding meeting of which he is a member. He was elected to post of secretary-membership secretary- approximately 15 persons attended- the majority mostly older workers-trade unionists. They are putting out a newsletter jointly with Scarborough North

Gord reported on preliminary transitional meeting of Oriole NDP P.E. a strong desire has been expressed by a core of activists to hold the group together--they are meeting once a month on a regular basis. Diane and Gord drew up a perspective document (see attached.) Phil Jones will be a party candidate in the coming election and expresses desire to build up the Left Caucus

Anti-War Committee has called a meeting Thursday October 15 at 519 Church-featuring George Thring and a film -pressing the provincial office to get effective banners to raise at demos for the Provincial Peace and Disarmament Committee

Kopyto trial ended on last Friday October 3- many problems but it came off with a flare of publicity-articles in both the G & M and Star every day with a very good turn out of supporters on opening day. Real commitment by Roach-Angie found her feet-presented the case very well--a big experience. Law Union made no real identification-- Lockyer appeared as a lawyer-Ruby and Copeland as witnesses- Judge will make his ruling on October 17--will be unfavorable all the way

Educational by Bill C--The Soviet Union today

Next meeting Tuesday October 21--secretary will be sending out a written notice via the mail to try to get the meetings back on a regular schedule

Toronto Forward meeting October 21, 1986

(R.D. Rec. Secty)

Not yet held

Attendance- David, Ross, Harry, John D, Bill C, Gord and Angie, Absent- Jeff enrolled in a language class- Kasher and Diane unknown Bill elected as chairperson

Minutes of last meeting adopted as read

Agreed in the interest of re-establishing regularity of branch meetings that we ~~agree to~~ hold the future meetings on Tuesdays

NDP- report by Ross that At long last first meeting of St George- St Davids provincial party is now slated to take place October 27. Ross invited to Ward 6 executive meeting which turned out to be a meeting of core activists to contact members in the Ward to see what ~~they want~~ kind of activity they want to get underway. Ross took 10-20 names to interview. David reported on Left Caucus steering committee meeting of October 15 and the CAP Left Caucus meeting of October 21. There is agreement with CAP to joint sponsor November 29 Conference. Joint CAP and Left Caucus steering committee meeting tomorrow will probably reach agreement on fusion of the two groups. Still attempting to obtain Harney for the pre conference Friday night rally.

Ross informed branch that he was misdirected by Bulletin in Defence of Marxism report on Lima Conference. Certainly Broadbent representing the NDP at Second International gave nothing to any pressure to dump the NDP's support of Nicaragua. Bill C picked up a copy of the Manitoba NDR which carried a full report of Broadbent's speech which was strong in support of Nicaragua and contained a strong attack on Reagan's support of the Contras. The misimpression that he gave to the Steering Committee discussion on the next issue of the LS Bulletin will have to be corrected at its next meeting. Gord circulated to the branch copies of a draft response to the Ontario leaderships Report of the Task Force on Internal Communications--re party candidates and adherence to official party policy. It was suggested that this should be considered a matter for discussion at the Left-Caucus- CAP conference- Now that a clear decision has been taken to fuse the Left Caucus and the CAP appropriate changes need to be made to prepare ~~that~~ and launch that fusion at the 29th conference.

Report by Gord and Bill on anti-war committee meeting addressed by Thring on behalf of Richard Johnson. Preparation afoot to participate in the October 26 demo.

Harry gave progress report on Defence campaign which is winning widening support - New office being opened on October 25 at 721 Danforth Avenue at Pape phone 461 3605. Building for effective social on ~~November~~ 5th and a mobilization in solidarity with Kopyto before the court sentence ~~October~~ 6. All comrades and supporters need to be mobilized for both events

next branch meeting Tuesday November 4th

Minutes of Toronto Forward Group November 4, 1986 meeting (R.D. Rec. Sect'y.)
Minutes of October 21 read. Correction re report by David - the CAP meeting
had not been held as of that meeting.

Membership and contacts - Ross reported on progress of Paul & Eker-Geldermans
who has come around the Kopyto struggle. Fettes of the NDP youth is not respon-
ding as we would wish - heavily influenced by British Militant group and their
contacts here and in the US - not really oriented to the Left Caucus and the NDP

Attendance - Ross, Diane Gord, David, John D and Bill C

Educational - Subject left over from the previous hat box - Social Democracy
and Stalinism in Germany. Ross volunteered to give an extemporaneous talk
NDP. Round-up report and discussion on the preparations for the Left Caucus
Conference - November 29, 1986

Attempts to organize a Friday nite public forum with a feature such as Harney
on the Quebec NDP have all fallen through. Dan Heap is committed to go to
Winnipeg meeting that weekend. Robinson would not be available until the
Saturday. Plans are afoot to hold an effective panel of the issues before
the coming Montreal federal convention which Svend Robinson is prepared to
participate in. Robick is for the fusion into one organization. Thring non-
committal.

NDP P.E. Gord reports regular meetings being held - good spirit

Report by Gord on Oriole NDP meeting. He stood and was acclaimed as president
of the riding

Ross reported on the perfunctory response of the members that attended the found-
ing of the St George-St David's riding. Very few from St George. While absent A
Argue agreed to take the presidency. While the NDPs support is sustained by the
polls there is a big decline in party activism with some ~~ridings~~ not yet
pulling themselves together with the new boundaries -- York Centre, Markham etc

Kopyto Defence - The mass rally for support scheduled for tomorrow nite
in the Steelworkers hall seems guaranteed to be a success as does the rally
planned on Thursday morning before the court house which will see Kopyto
sentenced. The leaflet announcing the Left Caucus forum featuring Roach
and Kopyto is ready for distribution

Trade union -- Report on the coming OPSEU convention by Diane characterized by
Clique politics -- Clancy vs Sue Vallance

Minutes of Forward Group- November 15, 1985 (R.D. Rec. Secty.)

Chairperson--- Bacher

Minutes of November 6, 1985 adopted as read.

Attendance- Ross, Harry, David, Bacher, Diane- absent, Esther, Gord, Darling
Bob Kasher. Angie.

Left Caucus--- Report on publicity for Conference. Distribution of notice at election campaign celebrations uneven due to general defeat suffered by NDP. Ross reported good reception at Ward 6 which was a victory celebration for election of slate. He managed to inject idea of Layton running for mayor. Several teachers active around New Democrats for Preservation of Public education pleased with distribution-one injecting idea that NDP could have won provincially if it had taken an opposition stand, modest success in High Park through Bedard. Phone lists being prepared by Dave to build Friday and Sunday meetings

Dave reported on continued discussions about slate for next years Ontario convention. Marv Gandall moderating his concepts--wont be a full slate or around a worked out agreed upon program-it wont be a Left Caucus slate either - Thring doesn't want Left Caucus endorsement -The Left Caucus will identify itself with the list-xxxxxx which has yet to be built up and around three or four issues around which we attempt to mount support and struggle for. As things stand now Judy Rebick will contest the presidency and Marv Gandall the treasurer. With these two candidates plus others who may move out the Left will challenge the party leadership. With the Friday meeting on public funding of Catholic high schools featuring Malcolm Buchanan along with Gord and Diane we hope to build up the conference. Dave is preparing a report for the all day Saturday conference which will outline the situation as the Left Caucus sees it--our challenge to the Rae leadership in terms of an action program around key issues of struggle--the shorter work week--, solidarity with Nicaragua, Support for Morgenthauser and the problems posed by the accord with the Liberal party. We hope in the process of electing a new steering committee to widen it with new and young elements. Marv will report on the preparations for mobilizing support behind the nucleus of our contest with the leadership

Diane reported on the struggle for the preservation of public education. The coalition is very much in the hands of the OSSTF and the church groups and appears to be collapsing---. The New Democrats committee will be meeting this coming Thursday to evaluate where the struggle is at and the way ahead

Municipal election- The defeat suffered by the party federally and provincially extended onto the municipal plane-particularly in Toronto--On the B of Education level the NDP suffered a real setback. The Johnson campaign which extended the opportunistic rot expressed in the accord with the Liberals on the provincial plane onto the municipal plane so that on top of the NDP's failure to provide an organizational centerpiece for its municipal campaign it also provided no political leadership and in fact pulled the rug from under the party's efforts. Layton expressed his view in the GM that the answer is to move into community organizing and completely evade the political challenges and lessons
Next meeting slated for November 29

A CONFERENCE ON STRENGTHENING THE LEFT in the Ontario NDP and to plan its participation in the March '87 Montreal federal convention

Nov 29/86

From where we stand the success of the Ontario Left Caucus conference which is designed to fuse ~~these~~ OLC with the Campaign for an Activist Party supporters this coming Saturday is by no means assured. As you ~~xxxx~~ probably know the restructuring of the NDP Toronto ridings appears to be bogged down. The hip media campaign being promoted by the leadership would appear to further remove the party's future away from the membership's participation and into the control of public relations and money raising dazzle of the party machine. While the public meeting held by the Left Caucus in defence of Harry Kopyto was by far the most successful forum that we have held it was not what we would have anticipated in view of the high profile the Kopyto suits has been having. To our knowledge while there many persons we had not seen before--traditional left caucus supporters and in particular CAF supporters were notably absent

Of course this Saturday's conference must be a success and starting off right at 9 with the address of a leader of the Quebec NDP

We anticipate that you will do ~~everything~~ possible ~~xx~~ to assure th at the united body heads into the New Year and the coming federal convention in the best possible shape

- 1:30 - 2:00 REGISTRATION
- 2:00 - 2:20 BUILDING THE UNITED LEFT IN ONTARIO DAVID TOMCZAK
- 2:20 - 3:30 ROLE AND FUNCTION OF THE ONTARIO LEFT - CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE FLOOR
- 3:30 - 4:15 NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF A UNITY STEERING COMMITTEE 1987 - 1988
- 4:15 ADJOURNMENT

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT MANFRED NETZEL 416-- 651-4123

PARTICIPATE IN THE DISCUSSIONS AND DECISIONS.

***the Campaign for an Activist Party
and the ONDP Left Caucus***

Minutes of the Toronto Forward Group meeting of December 3, 1986

Minutes of previous meeting Nov 13 not available

(R.D. Rec. Secty.)

Secretary- Ross. Chairperson-elect Angie G

Agenda read and adopted

Attendance - Ross, David, Gordon, ~~B. B.~~, Angie, Harry K, Bob K (late) John D
Diane unable to attend, mother still gravely ill;

NDP--wide-ranging report and discussion on the Left Caucus conference of
November 29. . It was generally agreed that it was highly successful.

Attendance was down --CAP forces were notably absent but there was a good
spirit and a broader Steering committee was elected in a serious atmosphere.
Judy Rebick set a good tone early in a contribution with the observation
that CAP is dead, that it achieved its purpose at the convention this
summer and proved to be a valuable experience but what it rallied
there has yet to be consolidated on an ongoing basis in the Left Caucus
and in future struggles. While Rebick would not stand as a co-chair, ~~she~~
she ran for the Steering committee. The contribution of ~~Chue Brascide~~ a

~~co-president~~ of the Quebec NDP, was generally left and well received as were
the contributions of Tomczak and Doctorow. Several persons from the RWE
came apparently to inspire those attending and the Left Caucus as
such to really get in and fight to link the NDP to the ongoing labor
struggles. While they sought no representation on the steering committee
they helped the treasury. Weisleder refused to integrate himself in the
caucus and by speaking ended in defeating himself in his bid to go on the
Steering Committee

Kopyto Defence--With the judge finding Kopyto guilty of contempt of court
and barring him from practice until he apologizes the Kopyto defence has
taken on a new dimension. The appeal which has already been launched will
be heard on March 9. All three dailies have carried editorial protests-
the Cdn Civil Liberties Association has issued a strong statement of
support and is making Kopyto central to a campaign and fund appeal ^{to remove} scandaliz-
ing the court from the criminal law. Kopyto proposes to pull back from
the defense taking on a full time public relations promoter and launching
a national newspaper ~~and~~ drive and to concentrate working on the mass
media. He and Ross have already been approached by CBC Fifth Estate. Kopyto
is preparing a press conference to protest RCMP infiltration of ~~his~~ his
office as revealed in the courts

Dowson reported on the proposition that Harry seek the NDP nomination in
St George-St David riding which is the Crayon Attorney Ian Scott's seat.
He is in the process of assessing whether Campey is prepared to back off,
Nomination meeting Jan 6 so decision can be taken next meeting

Good and Welfare- Angie raised the matter of David's unfortunate comment
as to her qualification to be on the steering committee of the Left Caucus.
Her protest was met with an apology by David

Trade union--Kasher gave an extended and supplementary report to Diane's
report on the OPSEU convention of last meeting.

Meeting adjourned to the next meeting of December 17th. Kasher will
present the educational on recent developments in the South African revol-
utionary struggle at that meeting



Secretary - Dowson- Chair- B.O.C.

Attendance- Bill C, Gord D, Ross D., Harry K, Angie C and Diane M

Minutes of previous meeting read and adopted as read

Membership and contacts- Discussion on Charles Roach. Ross reported that he had been unable to have any serious discussions with Roach for some while as there were no occasions. It was agreed that Angie and Harry who have been working with him closely on the suit which has been developing along very favorably should arrange some appointments with him to specifically discuss our political views and report back--agreed

Educational-- Without explanation Kasher failed to turn up--motion to postpone educational until next meeting--passed

Left Caucus-- report by Gord and extended discussion- Well attended steering committee took place. It was decided to hold monthly meetings with the first one being on January 22. They will be on the fourth Thursday of each month. , they will be open and designed to be attractive to activists in the party. They will be of a high educational content on matters confronting and concerning the party and socialist ideology. There is one being planned on Quebec but it will not be in the regular structure --it will be held on a Sunday afternoon at the OFL building and will feature several speakers. An editorial board was struck off to get working on the Left Caucus bulletin--an issue is being planned that will come out in the first week in February. Esther has moved right into the bulletin as one of the editors.

Ross raised some questions on how we handled the Ontario NDP executive's Policy Review committees Guidelines for Candidates Adherence to Party Policy. The matter was of considerable importance to the Group directed as it was against Doctorow and designed to strengthen the leadership control of candidates and policy. Gord presented a written critique that served as his contribution at the provincial council discussion - yet it was not methodically circulated through the group and no time was allocated for a discussion of it. among us. The document is a good polemical reply to Krashinsky. However Ross stated that he thought we missed an opportunity to attempt to present some ideas on the bureaucratic centralism of the leadership and some norms that would properly apply to a mass labor party formation open to everyone who is not a member of any other political party associated with other labor and socialist parties with widely diverse points of view. The Left when attacking the reformist leaderships betrayal of working class interests has traditionally appeared to adopt a stance for centralism which ~~is~~ we have no interest being developed in any other political formation than a revolutionary socialist party which we are only now trying to build and which would have to be applied dialectically.

Riding reports-- by Diane, by Bill C and a progress report on Harry K seeking the nomination of the St George-St David riding- plans are proceeding to prepare an appeal that will be mailed to every member of the new riding as soon as we receive the membership list promised.

Kopyto Defence- Harry reported that Svend Robinson is raising the RCMP infiltration of his office by the RCMP before Simmonds and the parliamentary committee. Preliminary discussion on Kopyto March 9 appeal. It was agreed that we seek to force scandalizing the court be dropped from the Criminal Code.

Next meeting due to the holiday season ^{on} Jan 6, 1987--Diane suggested question of Pornography debate be discussed in a future meeting

meeting adjourned

December 21, 1986
#2311-40 Homewood Ave.
Toronto M4Y 2K2
Canada

International Viewpoint

Comrades;

u

Please find a contribution of the equivalent for \$100 Cdn
to your publication fund.

socialist greetings

Ross Dowson

The Committee for an Activist Party, a conjunctural formation
in the Ontario NDP has now fused with the Ontario NDP Left
Caucus. The court battle against the federal police-the RCMP is
taking on new dimensions. Lawyer Kopyto's appeal against "scandalizing the
courts" goes to the Ontario Supreme Court March 9 -Dowson's appeal
will come up about the same time and it is possible that Kopyteoy will get
the NDP nomination to contest the Q Attorney-General in the coming Election